FACES OF REALITY

Faces of Enjoyment

Faces of Intelligence

Face Time

Face-Off

Face Card

Advertising

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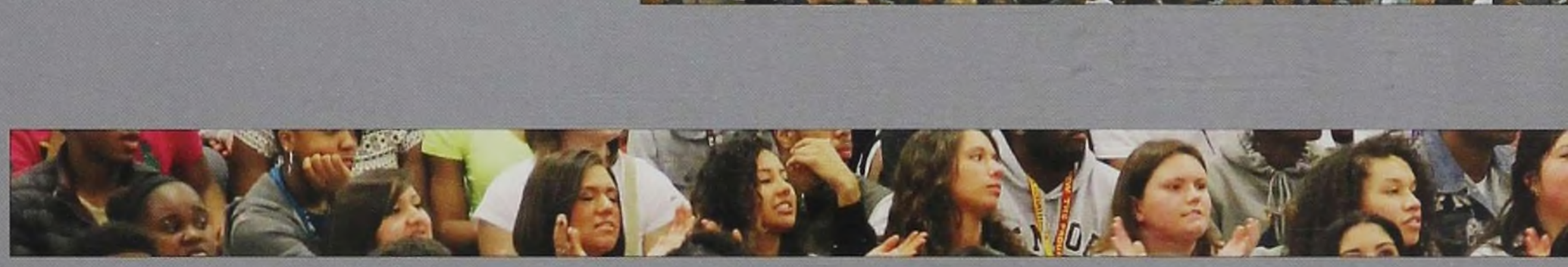

Faces
Of Reality

Merrillville High School
Merrillvue Vol. 89
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Merrillville, Indiana 46410
219-650-5307
www.mvsc.k12.in.us/mhs
Enrollment: 2287

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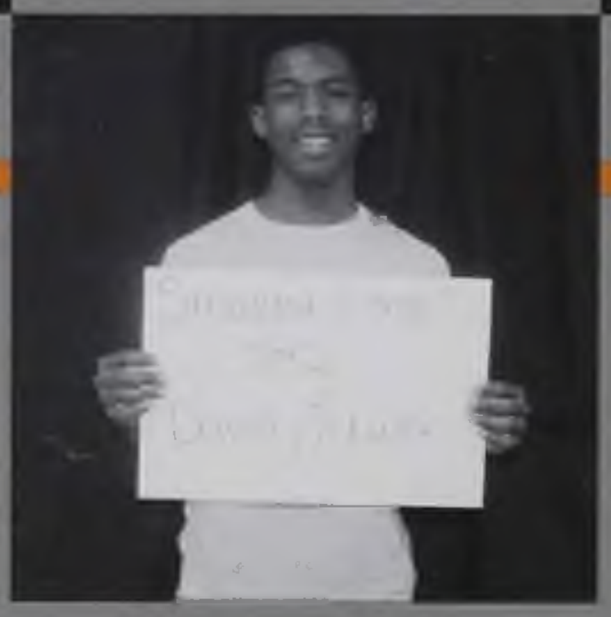
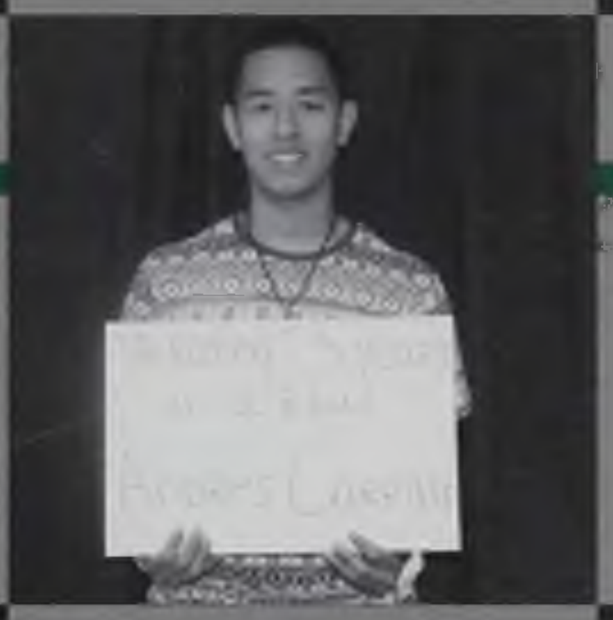
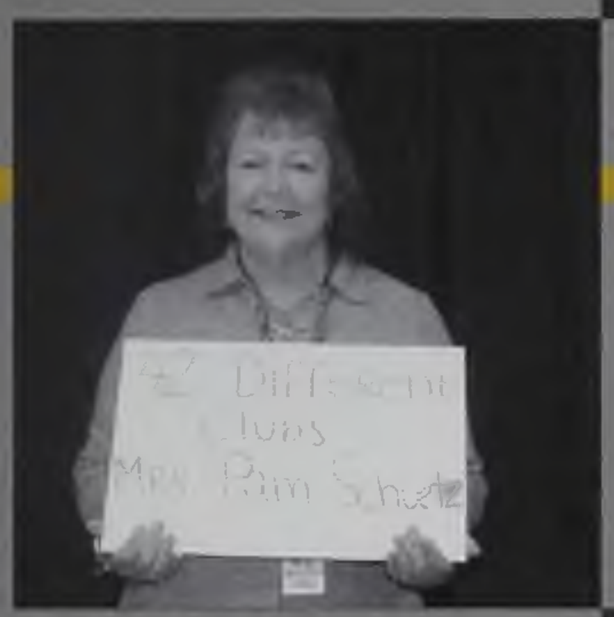
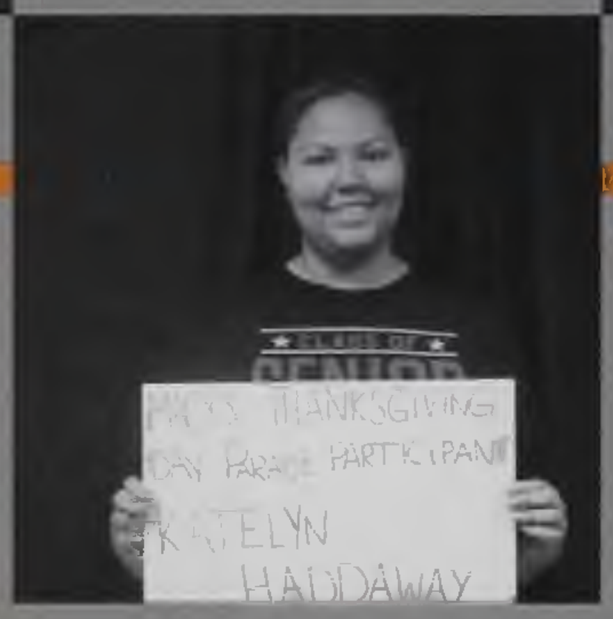








Facing the Facts

Dressed in a kimono she made herself, Freshman Megan Mays stands on the freshman Homecoming float. "I think being on the float, making the costumes and researching the culture were a lot of fun. It is something I will always remember," Mays said.

In the middle of the student section at a football game, Junior Garrett Ferrell keeps his eyes on the play. Ferrell said he liked going to the games and feeling the energy of the crowd. "I believe the bigger the fan section, the better the team will do," Ferrell said.

Standing on the stage, Senior Kathryn Sarsfield dances with her fellow seniors. Sarsfield went to Prom with her friend Senior Courtney Peterson. "The best part about Prom was dancing with all my friends," Sarsfield said.

Front and center, Senior William Akins III sings into the microphone during the annual holiday choir concert. Akins was part of the choir and Drama Club. "My favorite memory while I was acting is from my freshman year," Akins said. "It was the last showing for Phantom of the Opera. I was on stage with another actor, and he was supposed to throw a script at me. Instead of directly throwing it at me, he knocks off a light and knocks my wig off my head. It was all caught on camera."

Akins finds his niche in performing arts

Singing and acting was something Senior William Akins III completely stumbled upon.

Akins began his career in the arts with his church's choir. His freshman year, he decided to audition for the Contest Play.

"I did not get the role. I let it be a sign that acting wasn't for me," Akins said.

By the end of his freshman year, despite encouragement from friends, Akins considered leaving the choir program.

Due to this, Akins attributes his success to his friends Seniors Kiera Shackleford and Cassandra Govert, who convinced him to continue with choir.

"His talent was obvious since middle school. Our choir program needed his talent," Govert said. "I didn't want him to give up on something that he was good at. He is a pivotal part of the choir and theatre programs."

After auditioning for "Scrooge", Akins fell in love with the performing arts all over again.

Akins was a four-year member of the choir and guest vocalist for the Jazz Band. He also worked the technical booth during orchestra concerts. Akins acted in many plays and musical productions.

"Will's voice leads the bass section. The newbies often strive to imitate his sound so that our bass section has a robust, round sound and solid blend," Performing Arts Department Head and Choir Teacher Mrs. Melinda Reinhart said. "In his early years, Will also was inspired by some upperclassmen role models whose sound Will himself was trying to imitate."

"His graduation leaves some big shoes to fill," Mrs. Reinhart said. "Will will be sorely missed."

He was awarded the title of Best Regional Actor his senior year. Akins also received a Superior Rating and Excellence Rating at the State Thespian competition.

Akins learned lessons he will carry with him throughout his life as a result of joining the choir and theatre programs.

"I hope I can be an inspiration in any shape or form," Akins said. "I want to inspire young actors."

Spirit Week brings out

Last year students started off Spirit Week with Nerd Day, but this year a few changes were made and the week started with all things camouflage. Although a lot of people came to school sporting the camouflage look, some felt it wasn't worth replacing Nerd Day

"So many people wear camouflage on a daily basis, so it's nothing that we haven't worn before," Senior Craig Burns said.

Finding a twin was not the only hard part about Twin Day. Finding an outfit to wear was the other.

"Me and my twin spent about three hours looking for clothes we had that were similar before we finally found our outfit," Junior Briante Rodgers said.

Wacky Tacky Day is one of the favored Spirit Days by students. Although many people may just wake up and throw anything on just to go for a funny look, Junior Jannel Boyd said her outfit was inspired by many different stars.

"Destiny Child inspired my boots, Mr. Brown from 'Meet The Browns' inspired my ashy knees, my hair and jacket were inspired by Whitney Houston and my mom inspired my shirt," Boyd said.

Pink Day offered an opportunity to support breast cancer research and raise awareness.

"I like Pink Day not only because it's my favorite color, but because my auntie has breast cancer and I support her, so that's why Pink Day meant so much to me," Freshman Madison Blackwell said.

After school Thursday, the Homecoming Parade started at Pierce Middle School and ended behind the high school at the Goofy Games. At the Goofy Games, students from each grade play against the other grades.

"I thought it was fun, but it was a shame that we lost tug-a-war to the seniors because we had stronger people, but the pudding slide was the best part," Junior Khaila Sanchez said.

The Homecoming game was the most favored event by MHS students. Many people went to the game to not only show support for the Pirates, but also for LaPorte High School varsity football player Junior Jake West. West passed away just a few days before the Homecoming game.

"My favorite part of Homecoming Week had to be the game," Burns said. "It felt pretty good to show love to the LaPorte family and also be able to play in the game at the same time."

Another memorable moment during the Homecoming Game was the crowning of Homecoming Queen Elizabeth Nino and Mr. Football Tyrie Fuller. This moment was filled with surprises and happiness.

"I was real surprised, and very honored, because all the football players voted for me," Fuller said.

"I was very shocked! I couldn't believe it," Nino said. "I kept saying to myself, 'is this really happening right now?' I was really just very happy and excited."

Sporting pink from head to toe Senior Jacob Carey holds a pink inflatable bat.

monday

Camouflage Day

Showing off her unique style, Senior Gloria Hall, participates in her last Spirit Week. "Being a senior, I gladly participated in Wacky Tacky Day, Pink Day, Camouflage Day and Twin Day," Hall said.

During Spirit Week, Senior Billy Grant wears his grandfather's Marine jacket. "I cut the jacket with scissors to make it my own", Grant said.

For their last Homecoming Week, Seniors Megan Wilkerson and Waymon Cruse, participate in Camouflage Day. "People said my outfit stuck out and it was creative," Cruse said.

tuesday

Twin Day

For Twin Day, Seniors Jemonte' Love and Kenneth McDowell wear matching white shirts and black jeans. "We always wear black and white," Love said. They planned their outfits by communicating through text messages.

Sisters show off identical outfits for Twin Day. Junior Da'Janae Varnado and Senior Martiana Varnado matched with the only things they had alike. "I also did Wacky Tacky Day and wear Pink Day," Martiana said.

To participate in Twin Day, Juniors Charesse Parker and La'Neicea Dates chose matching outfits. "I wanted to show school spirit with my best friend," Dates said.

tackiest, twins and tints

wednesday

Wacky Tacky Day

Random items make up Junior Victoria Thompson's outfit for Wacky Tacky Day. "I wanted to do better than I did last year," Thompson said.

Dressing like a toddler, Junior Anthony Green participates in Wacky Tacky Day. "Pajamas were something no one would do," Green said.

Adding balloons to her outfit, Senior Jasmine Taylor puts a twist on Wacky Tacky Day. "It was my senior year and I wanted to have fun one more time," Taylor said.

thursday

Pink Day and Parade

Surrounded by friends who want to raise awareness of breast cancer by wearing pink, Junior Meagan Clarkson wears a pink tee and "Love Pink" sweats. "I also did Camouflage Day, Twin Day and Spirit Day," Clarkson said.

While standing on their float, juniors wave at bystanders during the parade. "Everyone agreed we would do Greece. We had sheets and made our togas," Junior Shana Sams said.

At the Goofy Games, a group of seniors tug the rope and try their hardest to beat the juniors. "It was my second time going and a good time", Senior Ronald Woods said. The seniors won the event and the entire Goofy Games.

friday

Purple Pride and Game

To name Senior Tyrie Fuller Mr. Football 2013, Coach Zac Wells, presents him with a football signed by his teammates. "I was excited and I felt honored my teammates voted for me", Fuller said.

Wearing her cheerleading attire, Junior Khaila Sanchez poses with Junior Eein Harmon. Sanchez has been part of cheer squads since eighth grade.

After she is crowned Homecoming Queen, Senior Elizabeth Nino smiles for the cheering crowd. "I was shocked, happy and excited. It was a good way to start my senior year", Nino said.

All around the world in one night

Months of planning resulted in a successful Homecoming for the students attending the dance. Student Government met every Wednesday for two months to make decisions about food and decorations.

"Our Vice President Junior Alice Canchola suggested the theme of 'All Around the World' and it was put on the ballot and was voted on by the members," Sponsor Ms. Samantha St. Aubin said.

Decorations included cardboard cutouts of landmarks from around the world, including the Statue of Liberty the Eiffel Tower and Big Ben. They also turned the ramp in the Hall of Flags into the Great Wall of China

"It was very stressful setting up. There was so much that had to be done," Junior Mariana Cantu said.

Members hung globes that they painted themselves above the doorways . They also blew up blue and silver balloons Students at the dance played with globe-like beach balls that the Student Government members filled with blue glitter to represent water. They kept the crowd entertained during a brief pause in music.

"The DJ had technical difficulties because there was too much power going through one circuit and it popped," Ms. St. Aubin said.

Student Government members sold about 936 tickets and spent their Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. decorating the Hall of Flags while other students prepared themselves for the night.

"My mom did my hair for me. I took pictures before the dance with a group of friends," Junior Yesenia Lopez said.

Ms. St. Aubin said that a good crowd showed up to mark the end of a busy week. Student Government received compliments on the successful dance.

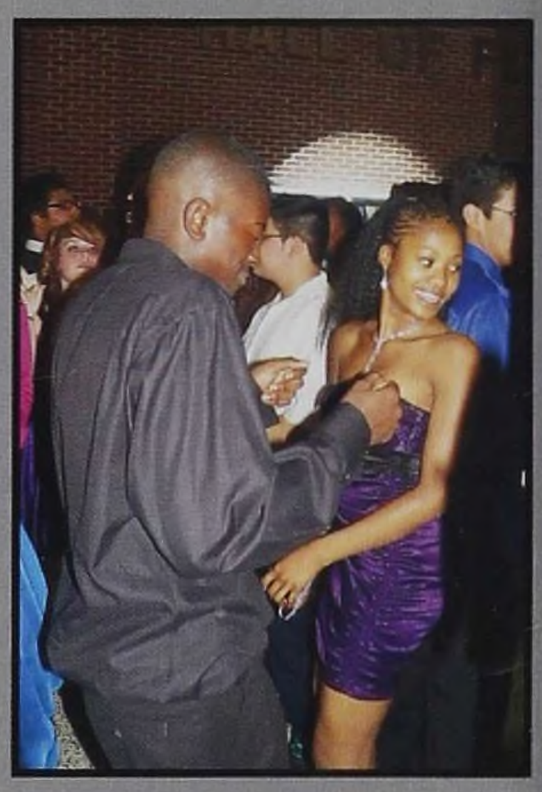
"It was my first dance. I really had a great time." Lopez said.

Joined by other Student Government members, Senior Naeemah White makes a poster for the Great Wall of China. "My favorite part was setting up. I love the creative aspect, making it look nice," White said. She attended the dance with her date, Senior Juan Martinez. "The theme was challenging and different. There really was not much you can do," White said.

"My favorite part about Homecoming was the dancing. It's not every day you get to dance in a hallway. It's like a once in a year thing," Senior Megan Austin said. Austin attended the dance with her date Senior Domonique Lambert. After the dance, Austin went to Red Robin and then to downtown Valparaiso the following day. "I thought the theme this year was fun and unique," Austin said.

Taking her time, Junior Alexis Barron prepares the lanterns for the dance. "At first I was forced to join Student Government because all my friends were in the club. They were like, 'You should join,' and I did, and I liked it," Barron said. Student Government members set up the Hall of Flags for Homecoming. "I did the lanterns and instructed a lot of people around," Barron said.

Left: In the crowd, Student Government President Kora Bramson dances. This is Bramson's second year in charge of Homecoming. "I love Student Government. It is amazing. I made so many friends through Student Government," Bramson said. Bramson and other members went to different stores to buy the decorations for the dance. "To my fellow Student Government members, thank you for being proactive and involved. Also, thank you Ms. St. Aubin for everything and being the best sponsor ever," Bramson said.
Right: As the music fills the room, Sophomore Aiesha Thompson dances with her date. "I went to Homecoming just to get out of the house," Thompson said. This was Thompson's first Homecoming. "My favorite part was the dancing and the food. I love how people were dressed up and having fun," she said. After the dance, she and her date went to Chili's.



Homecoming Experiences

Top: After the balloons are filled with air, Junior Kayla Brock and Senior Brandon Bass tie them up. "To set up for Homecoming, we moved the pop and food to the refreshment room. We did all the lights and put up the streamers," Brock said. In addition to setting up, Brock attended the dance. She said she spent two hours getting ready. "The hardest part about setting up was the pop up because we got confused and couldn't do it," Brock said.
Left: While standing at the table, Junior Taylor Steffey picks up a picture form. "My favorite part was getting ready. I took a shower and got my hair and nails done," Steffey said. This is Steffy's first dance. She was accompanied to the dance by Junior Brian Sales.
Bottom: With the letters placed, Student Government members come together to make the sign for the Great Wall of China. The club this year was led by Ms. Samantha St. Aubin. "I became the sponsor because Student Government makes kids leaders," Ms. St. Aubin said. The club spent Friday and Saturday to get the Homecoming dance ready. "Everyone was a huge help. They spent a lot of time making everything great. Some kids spent their whole Saturday and took time after school Friday to make sure homecoming was great," Ms. St. Aubin said.

"The dance this year was different because I went with a different group of friends. I went with (Seniors) Asia Wilson, Nadia Belk and Tiara Bean. After the dance, I went to Red Lobster," Junior Sabrina Harris said.

"I enjoyed being around friends. My most memorable moment was the dance, and after the dance I went to Red Lobster with a group of friends," Junior Michael Johnson said.

"I loved the dancing because I love to dance. After the dance, we went to Tilaya Harris's house and we ordered Chinese," Junior Cassidy Koontz said.

"I went to the dance with my friend, (Sophomore) Makayla Watson. It took me two hours to get ready. I didn't really like how crowded it was. After the dance I went to Outback," Junior A'Mauri Erving said.

"I went to the dance because it was my senior year. It took me three to two hours. After the dance I went to Outback," Senior Tadja Outlar said.

What was your most memorable moment?

"My most memorable moment was the photo booth. It was so much fun. I went with (Freshman) Kaja Sims and (Sophmore) Marlesse Greer. After the dance, we went to Red Lobster," Senior Brandi Sims said.

"My most memorable moment was going with my boyfriend (Senior) Trey'Vonn Washington. We were having the greatest time and he made it so special. After the dance, we went to a party, then to his house," Senior Faiza Dika said.

Key Characters

"I'm usually a stage crew helper, but this time I decided to be in the actual play."
Senior Domonique Lambert

Domonique Lambert played the lead, Ishmael.

Freshman Nia Wells said she finds her passion on the stage. "I joined Drama Club and heard about 'Moby Dick.' I love being on stage."

Nia Wells played the character, Queequeg.

Freshman Brian Moore said he likes to sing and act. "I love singing because it makes me feel good."

Brian Moore played Stub.

Hope Krajnak played Captain Ahab.

Sophomore Hope Krajnak said she enjoys acting and does her best to inhabit her character. "Acting makes me happy, and I've been told I have raw talent."

In the second act of "Moby Dick," Ahab (Sophomore Hope Krajnak) threatens Ishmael (Senior Domonique Lambert) with a harpoon. "I watched 'Jaws' over and over, trying to pick up acting methods," Krajnak said. "It wasn't hard because acting comes so easily to me and it wasn't hard to act like a mean old guy after a while."

On the voyage, Queequeg (Freshman Nia Wells) tells Ishmael (Senior Domonique Lambert) that the captain is determined to find Moby Dick. "This scene is one of my favorite scenes because my character learned another side to the captain," Lambert said.

The crew confronts Ishmael (Senior Domonique Lambert) after Ahab (Sophomore Hope Krajnak) gets mad at him. "This scene was interesting because it was basically the climax of the play," Lambert said.

The crew sings about whaling and catching Moby Dick. "Learning the songs was pretty easy," Senior Domonique Lambert said. "I'm not much of a singer, but many people told me I sounded great." Cast members said they enjoyed singing together. "I loved learning and singing the songs because I love music," cast member Freshman Cynthia Hindmon said. "I also loved playing my guitar during the play."

Behind the Scenes

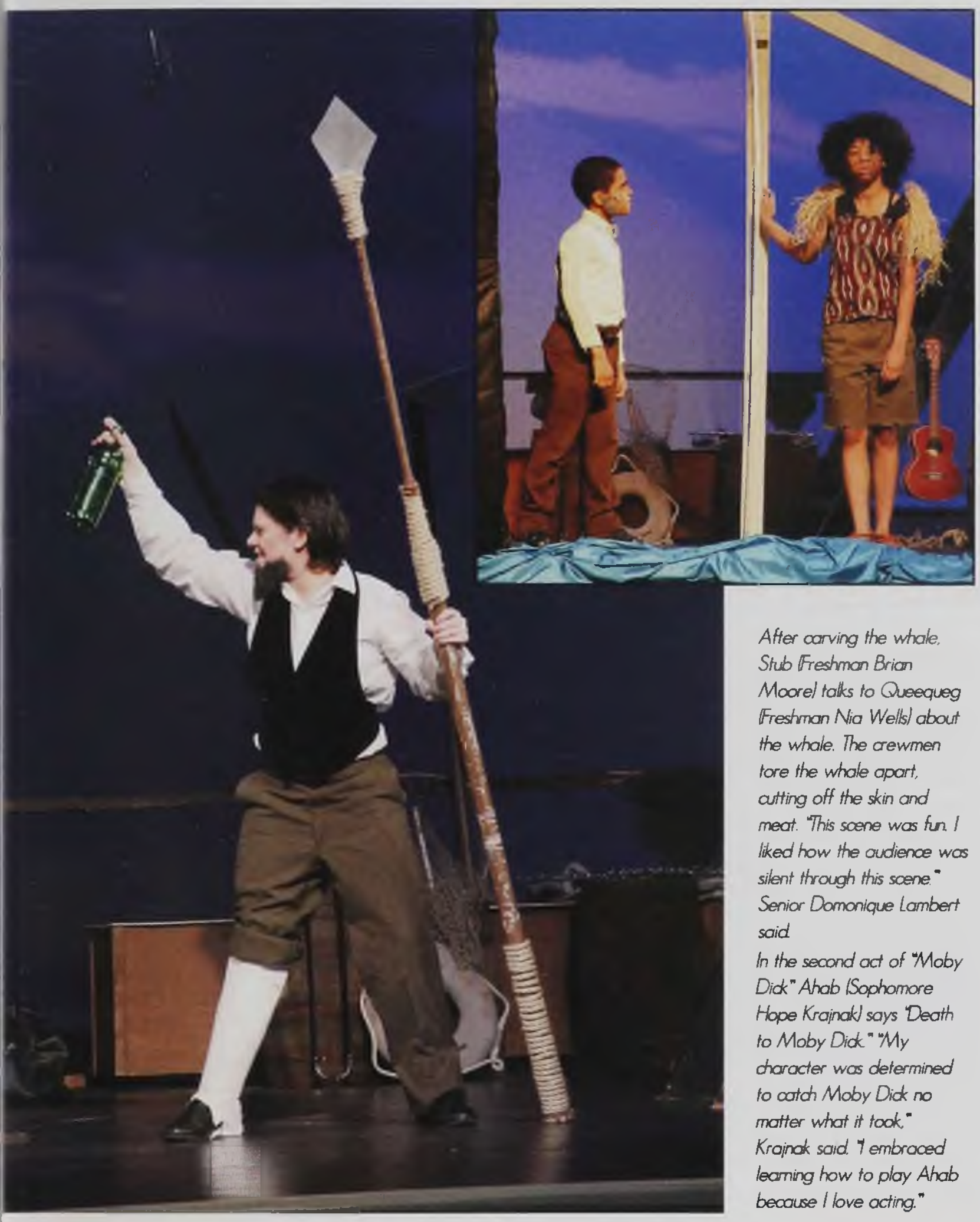
"My responsibilities were to make sure the microphones worked, play the sound cues, play music during intermission and make sure the recordings were playing on time and correctly."

Aaron Fuller
Sound Technician

"I had to make sure everyone was at rehearsal and make sure the actors were where they were supposed to be. I was also held responsible for everything the actors did."

Jada Shannon
Stage Manager

Fall play takes sail to capture Moby Dick



After carving the whale, Stub (Freshman Brian Moore) talks to Queequeg (Freshman Nia Wells) about the whale. The crewmen tore the whale apart, cutting off the skin and meat. "This scene was fun. I liked how the audience was silent through this scene," Senior Domonique Lambert said.

In the second act of "Moby Dick" Ahab (Sophomore Hope Krajnak) says "Death to Moby Dick." "My character was determined to catch Moby Dick no matter what it took," Krajnak said. "I embraced learning how to play Ahab because I love acting."

In the fall play, Drama Director Mr. Thomas Mackey and the Thespian Troupe told the story of "Moby Dick," the tale of a captain of a ship on a journey to find the white whale that took his leg.

The message of the play was what convinced Mr. Mackey to make "Moby Dick" the fall play

"I chose this play because it has a lot of messages that the students and the audience could take away from it without having to read a 600 page novel," Mr. Mackey said.

When interpreting a story's message, everyone has a different perspective.

"For me, the most important message is fate versus free will. Whether we are in charge of our own actions or if they are predetermined, but with both we must deal with the consequences," Mr. Mackey said.

With a small cast of only four main characters, the focus was mainly on set construction. The construction proved to be Mr. Mackey's main challenge

"We took the set directions in the play and then added our own interpretations on vague scenes. I also knew that the set had to be clear but simple enough to destroy at the end of the play in 60 seconds," Mr. Mackey said.

They built a ship's deck, a captain's quarters, a mast and a wheel. But the stage crew said what proved hardest was what made the set actually look like a ship. Things like barrels, life buoys, nets, curtains and harpoons were difficult to find and then place properly on stage.

Mr. Mackey and a team of designers worked together to make plans for the props. Cast and crew members helped to build the set to ensure that everything would come out the way the team envisioned.

The set builders had to create the set. They worked for three weeks, two to three hours on weekdays, five to six on weekends.

"It was fairly difficult to build the set because we had to teach new students how to use the tools," Senior David Osorio said, "but everyone was very dedicated to get the job done."

"Before the play, I designed the lights to work with the show. During the play, I operated them. I have a better understanding of the process of designing lights for a show from this experience."

Megan Austin
Lights Designer and Operator

"As stage crew manager, I had to make sure the crew was on time and working. I was responsible for when things come on and off the stage. The individuals are hard to manage, but if you work hard enough, they will surprise you in many ways."

David Osorio
Stage Crew Manager

"I took tickets and was in charge of the ushers. I also handled the audience's complaints and made sure they were following Reinhart Auditorium rules."

Anna Davis
House Manager

Before going off to Homecoming, Senior Christina Nilsson takes pictures with her host mother's granddaughters, Bailey Grandville and Gabriella Lukan. "It was really fun. It was just so different than what I'm used to," the exchange student said. "I'm used to parties outside of school and guys don't dress in tuxedos and girls don't dress in big dresses."

Facing challenges

After a thorough application process, Senior Christina Nilsson had the opportunity to experience high school in America. From moving to a new school, meeting new friends and leaving her family in Denmark, Nilsson said she faced many challenges.

"Being on my own made me most nervous," Nilsson said. "I was wondering if anyone would like me."

Once she was chosen for the exchange program, Nilsson underwent numerous health background checks as well as tests to measure her English speaking skills.

"It was a grueling process," she said. "I was just really happy to be chosen by a host family."

Of all the American traditions, Nilsson said she especially loved Thanksgiving.

"I really enjoy Thanksgiving because it's a chance for families to get together with the ones they love," she said. "I just find that really beautiful."

Despite the challenges along the way, Nilsson was able to enjoy her time in Merrillville.

"Overall being a part of the student exchange program was great" she said. "This is the first time I've ever really been able to take some time and focus on myself."

Waiting to go on stage for the production of "Oklahoma," Seniors Christina Nilsson and LeAnn Powell and Christina pose for a silly picture. "It's an experience I'll never forget because Reinhart's plays feel so professional," Nilsson said. "It feels good to be a part of it because I've never been in a production like that before."

Sebastian Kofoed — Norway

Q&A

-When is your birthday?
November 14, 1996
-What is your favorite class and why?
Sociology, Mr. Hofer is a good teacher.
-What is the biggest difference going to school in the United States?
The sports here, and it's less work than I'm used to back at home.
-What is a one moment you will always remember?
Asking my girlfriend to Prom.
-Why did you want to come to the United States?
To experience it by myself.
-What are some of your hobbies?
Basketball, workout and friends.
-Did you make any good friends while you have been here? Who?
Yes. The Swimming Team, Meagan Clarkson and Thomas Nueros.

Christina Nilsson — Denmark

Q&A

-When is your birthday?
March 12, 1997
-What is the biggest difference going to school in the US?
Changing classes. In Denmark, the teachers would come to us and the class sizes would usually be around 21 students. We don't have sports at the school.
-What is one moment you will always remember?
The choir concerts because it's so different and it's something I like to do. The musicals I've been in: "Oklahoma" and "Scrooge." My host family and my friends here.
-Why did you want to come to the US?
Because I wanted to be better at English, and when I get older I want to move here and start a career in acting.
-What is the hardest part about being away from home?
You miss your family, your mom and dad. I have a brother and I miss him, and that you're on your own besides your host family. You make your own decisions.

Tommie vanegveld — Belgium

Q&A

-When is your birthday?
November 22, 1995
-What is your favorite class and why?
Computer Programming. I want to do that as a job.
-What is the biggest difference going to school in the US?
The classes change every 12 weeks, and the school actually serves you lunch.
-Why did you want to come to the US?
My dad studied here when he was younger. I was drawn in by the patriotism and opportunity.
-What are some of your hobbies?
I like partying, being social and gaming.
-What is the hardest part of being away from home?
Not being able to hug my family.
-Did you make any good friends while you have been here? Who?
Yes. Ronald Mayersky, Joel Martin and Bradley Salka.

Portraying high school life

Who knew Zac Efron had so much power? Or that a scene of boys frolicking and singing on a basketball court could lure a Norwegian to the United States?

Senior Sebastian Kofoed said he chose the United States for his student exchange specifically because of the high school movies that portray American teenage life.

"I've seen high school movies like 'High School Musical,' I wanted to experience America too," Kofoed said.

His journey to the US was not just an enjoyable experience, but a growing experience as well. While in America, he learned how to wash clothes for the first time, and to keep his room clean.

"I'm more independent. I know more because I have experienced a different culture," Kofoed said.

Kofoed said Norway is less sociable. People in Norway do not walk up to people and just start talking or sit next to people they don't know on the bus. When Kofoed came to America, he realized the environment was different and he adapted.

"I'm more outgoing. Americans are more sociable. We don't really talk to strangers. When I got here, I was pretty shy, but now I'm not," Kofoed said.

He said he believes that this exchange has benefited his lifestyle and personality.

"I definitely know myself more," he said, "because America is so different. I've learned to appreciate the things I have in Norway."

Laying on a gurney, Tommie van Zegveld donates his blood to the American Red Cross during school. van Zegveld enjoyed trying new things in America. "Things in America are different then from back home. I learn new things and create memories here," van Zegveld said.

After his first swim season, Senior Sebastian Kofoed shows off his letter and certificate at the Winter Sports Banquet. "It felt good to receive my letter because I really improved during the season and I was an important member of the team," Kofoed said.

Traveling the world

According to Computer Teacher Mr. Andrew Niksch, the three best things from Belgium are Jean-Claude Van Damme, waffles and Senior Tommie van Zegveld..

Arriving from Belgium, van Zegveld was surprised most about the size of the roads and multiple fast food restaurants.

"How big the roads were and the fast food restaurants everywhere shocked me," van Zegveld said

van Zegveld has been to countless places all over Europe, including France, Germany, Turkey, Switzerland, and Denmark, but only certain places caught his attention.

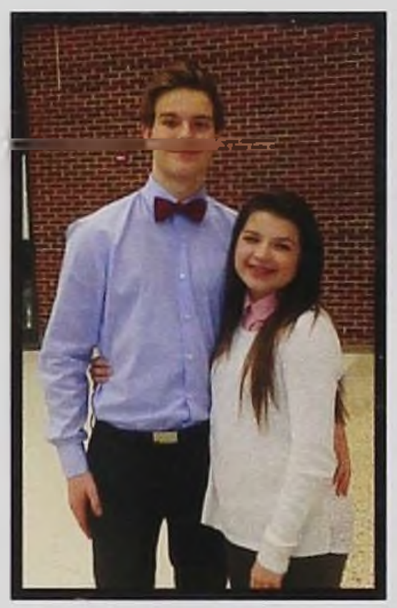
"Italy because of the food, Austria because of the snowboarding and Netherlands because of my family being there," van Zegveld said.

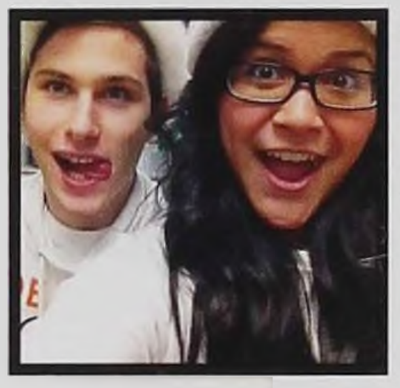
van Zegveld has come to appreciate the vast differences between his home country and the United States.

"The school system is amazing, I like how you can pick your classes and the after school sports, and the school spirit," van Zegveld said.

He has concluded that when it is time to go back to Belgium, he will definitely visit, he might even move here.

"I would love for my kids to grow up here," van Zegveld said





Clockwise from left: At the girls' Duneland Conference Swim Meet, members of the boys' team come out to support the girls. Senior Christina Nilsson accompanies Juniors Sarah Bradash and Emily Gronli on the German Club's field trip to Chicago. Senior Tommie van Zegveld takes a photo with Junior Chloe Stone and Sophomore DeLaney Richards at Homecoming. Senior Sebastian Kofoed and van Zegveld join some friends before Homecoming to take group pictures. Kofoed accompanies van Zegveld to the airport. After a football game, van Zegveld joins friends at Buffalo Wild Wings. At the Winter Sports Banquet, Kofoed poses with American girlfriend Junior Meagan Clarkson. During a visit to Downtown Disney with his host mothers, Kofoed visits the world's largest tethered helium balloon, Characters in Flight. Posing for a picture, van Zegveld and Senior Jazmine Garcia show off their Santa hats. Kofoed and several exchange students from Norway tour New York. On Halloween, Nilsson carves pumpkins with her host family.

Dancing the night away

Once a year, students from throughout the Calumet area come to participate in a dance planned just for them.

Family, Consumer and Career Leaders of America sponsor Ms. Carol VonBehren said the students who plan the event learn the true meaning of community service.

During the dance, members of FCCLA gave door prizes and gift bags to each attendee. Participants were able to take portraits and their parents often stepped in to take a few pictures of their children.

"During the dance, they are free to be them. They can do as they please and be amongst all of their friends," Special Needs Aide Ms. Acquarnetter Howard said.

This year's participants created fox masks and danced to "What Does the Fox Say?"

"There were all kinds of songs that we had in order for them to just have fun," Ms. Howard said

FCCLA members and their sponsor plan the dance and spend hours of preparation for the event to be a success.

"We also enjoy spending time with these wonderful students," FCCLA co-president Alexandra Dobrea said. "One of the most rewarding things to see as an FCCLA member is the smiles of the students as they dance the night away and as they have fun. It shows that our efforts paid well for making this dance possible."

FCCLA members have sponsored the event since 1996, when alumnus Carl Sims was president.

"Carl's sister was a special needs student," Ms. VonBehren said. "He was so enthusiastic about planning activities for special needs students he quickly had every member working together to plan the dance. Each year the dance gets bigger and better."

With arms in the air, Senior Jimmy Aiken dances with his friends. "The dance is always fun and that's why I go every year," Aiken said. Aiken said he wants to continue to go to the dance to hang out with all of his friends after he graduates.

Posing for the camera, 2013 graduate Kathryn [illegible] shows off her dance moves. "I wanted to come [illegible] see all my friends," Mannis said. "I want to [illegible] come back as long as I can." Mannis received [illegible] her gift.

With a smile on her face, Sophomore Katrina Yon dances with her friends. "My mom helped me get ready by doing my hair and buying my dress," Yan said. Yan's favorite part was being able to dance and see her friends.

As she watches the students dance, Senior Raelyn Greene walks around the cafeteria. "The dance overall went well. Everyone was happy with the outcome," Greene said. Greene has been a member of Family, Career and Consumer Leaders of America for three years, but this is the first dance she attended. She said she stayed after school to help decorate for the dance and then escorted students to their tables. "It's nice to see how much fun they have interacting with each other."

Dancing with friends the best part of annual Inclusion Dance

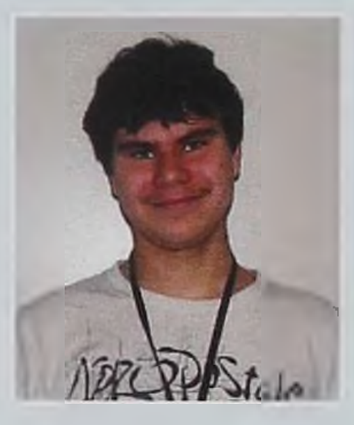
"Dancing with my friends and listening to the music made my entire night."
Senior Kenneth Johnson

Arms out and ready to get a prize, Junior Nathaniel Cox, focuses on the gift that he is receiving at the dance. "During the dance, I got a package of pencils and some other things," Cox said. After the dance, Cox said he went home to eat and spend time with his family.

"Dancing with all of my friends and eating all of the food was fun."
Senior Benjamin Hulsey

"Seeing all of my friends and listening to the music, dancing, and eating the food was the best part."
Junior Alayshia Bates-Smith

"I liked seeing everyone dressed up and seeing what the dance was about."
Freshman Andrew Leon



Coming back to Merrillville, alumnus Benjamin Banks dances to the music. "Before the dance, I thought about all of my friends and how much I missed them," Banks said. Banks was given a favor of a wallet, hat and a ball.

Ready to get the night started, Junior Crystal Recio dances to all her favorite songs. "I loved being able to dance with all of my friends the entire dance," Recio said. Recio was given a music box after the dance.

What was your most memorable moment?

"I loved being able to dance with all of my friends and when I got a gift after the dance. I was given different lotion and body wash."
Freshman Olivia Guevara

"I had a lot of fun being able to hang out with all of my friends and dancing."
Freshman Raymond Miller

"Being a part of the 'What Did the Fox Say?' was fun. I liked getting the gifts and listening to the music they played."
Senior Horace Turner III

Why are the fans in the stands important?

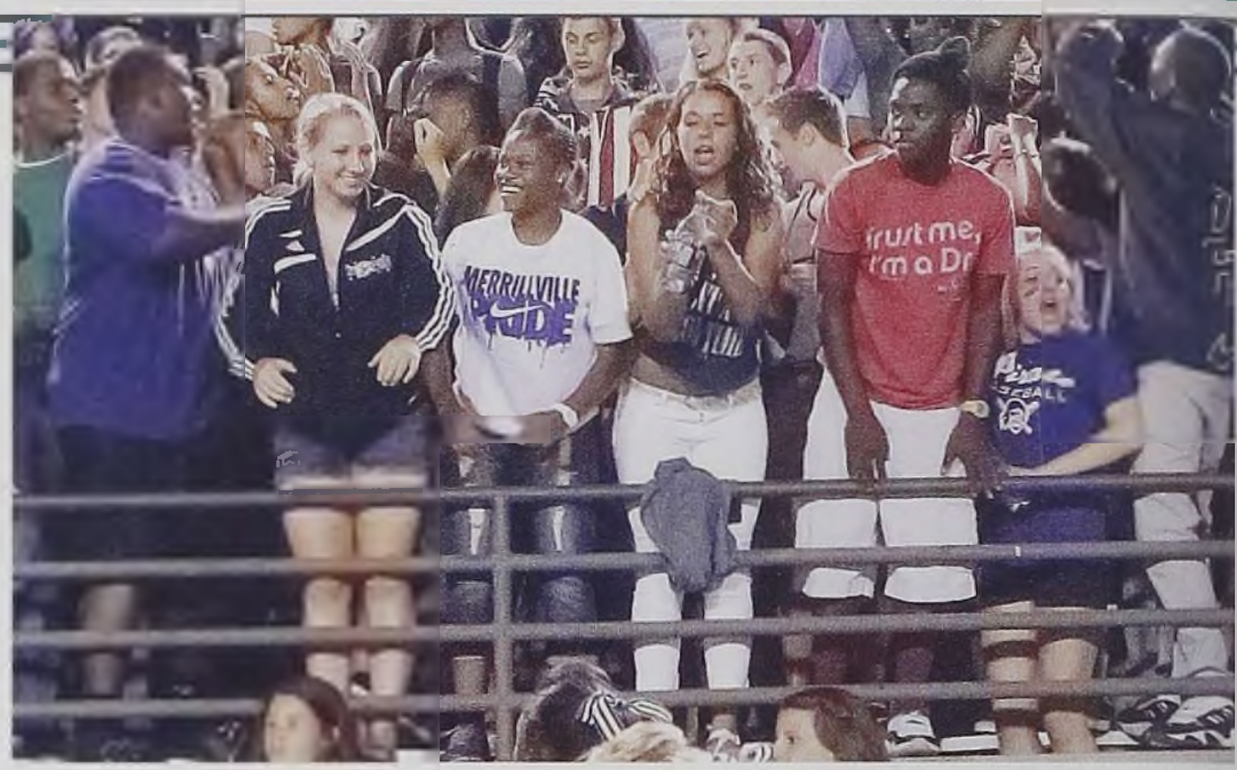
"It makes me feel like I have an advantage in the game."
Freshman
Mouhamed Diallo
Football
Wrestling

"Knowing that you have the support of the school makes the game more fun."
Sophomore
Jairus Stevens
Basketball

"It helps boost my confidence and gets me excited to play."
Junior
Terrance Grayson
Football
Baseball

"It is nice to know everyone is there to support me and the team."
Senior
Demetrious McKeethen
Basketball

Preparing to clap, Senior Katy Guzek roots for the home team in the game against South Bend Clay. Guzek sits with Seniors Shaquita Dillard and Kirsten Wiley and Junior Garrett Ferrell in the student section to support the team. "I go to the games to support the team, have fun and to have a good Friday night," said Guzek.

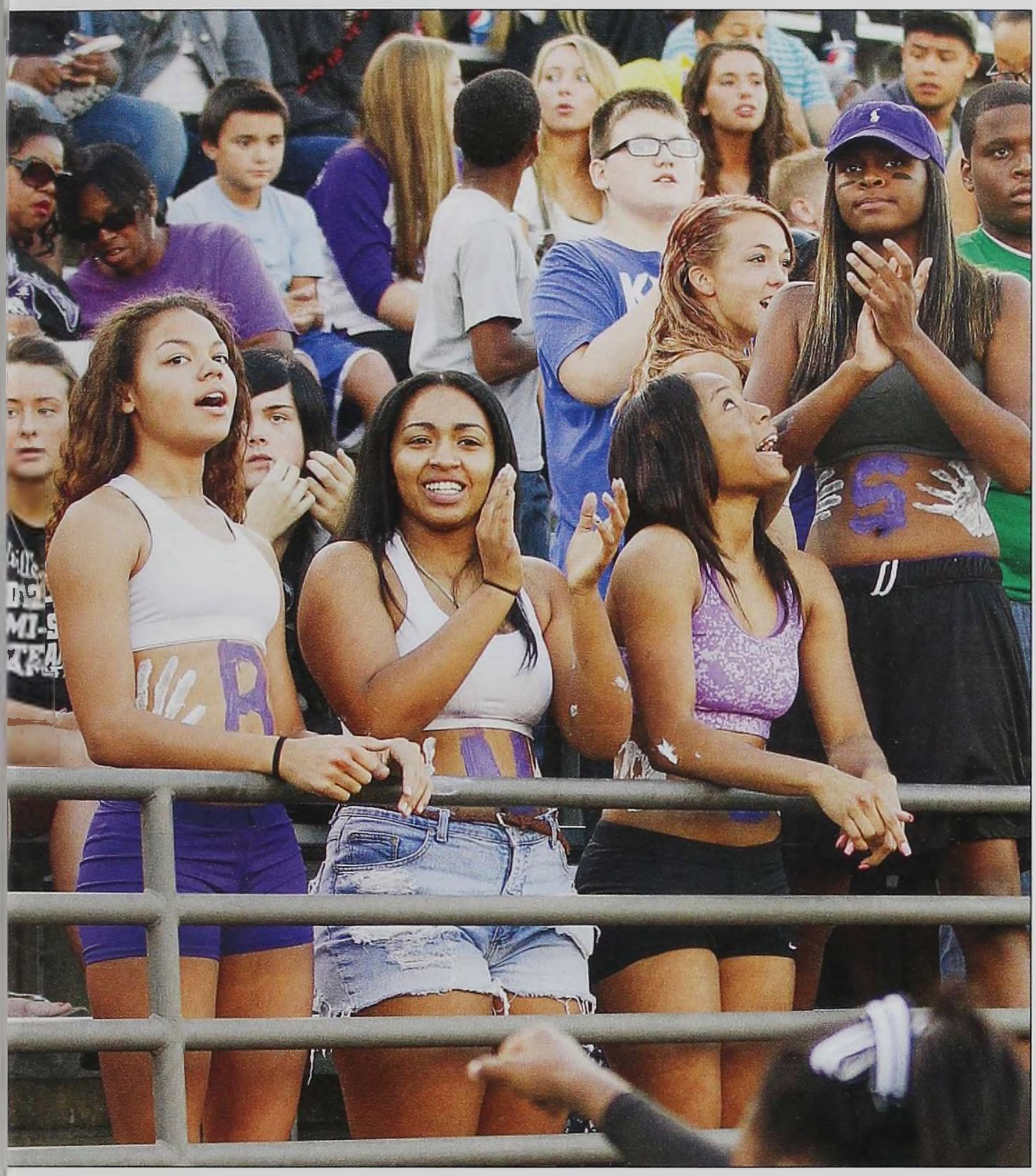


While cheering for the football team in the game against South Bend Clay, Senior Jacob Carey reacts to a play. Carey said he enjoys going to the games on the weekends. "It gives me something to do Friday nights, and I like to support the football teams" said Carey.

While sitting in the student section, Seniors Javaun Willis, Waymon Cruse and Nygel Jackson cheer for the team as they score a touchdown. "I love going to all the games. I try to make it to every home," said Willis. Willis attended the Battle of Broadway, the annual Andrean-Merrillville football game.

Intently watching the basketball game in play, Sophomores Riley Strong, Janae Williams, Tiara Pruitt, Jomaria Burns and Corrin Wheeler attend the boys' basketball senior night. "I like being able to watch people play and be with friends," said Pruitt. Pruitt said her favorite part about attending the games is "when they win."

Fans in the Stands



At the football game against South Bend Clay, Junior Morgan Harris, Senior Mariah Marcano, Junior Samantha Lee and Junior Jaz Talley stand near the railing to support the football team. The girls painted their stomaches to spell out "Bucs." Talley said she shows support by trying to attend all the games. "I stay positive and try to support all teams, even the little ones. Everyone is important here," Talley said.

Adrenaline rushes at high speed when athletes compete. Nerves go crazy.

To keep motivated, some athletes look to the fans in the stands. They say they enjoy having fans cheer them on and encourage them.

"I feel good. The crowd gets me going if I'm at the net shooting. If the crowd is cheering me on, I do things correct," Junior Victoria Gaines said.

Gaines, who plays both volleyball and basketball, said she believes students show school spirit and represent the school's character when they attend games or meets that do not get a lot of recognition.

Still, it's the football and basketball games that students attend the most.

On Friday nights, as students filled in the rows of the bleachers, they found ways to get the crowd pumped up.

A group of students, including Junior Garrett Ferrell, picked up a fan, Senior Conor Shea, and pushed her up in the air for every point the team scored at several games.

The Pirate mascot used silly antics and loud cheers to keep the crowd motivated.

Senior William Akins III portrayed the mascot.

"I did a lot of hand gestures, falling over and goofy dances to keep the crowd's attention. It is something I will always treasure," Akins said.

The cheerleaders show support at every game. Junior Khaila Sanchez said she stays positive no matter what the outcome of the game is.

"I keep up the positive attitude to keep the team motivated, and I feel as if it helps them do their best," Sanchez said.

"Having a lot of fans in the stands was uplifting and makes everything better. It gets the team going," Senior basketball player Michaud Cherry said.

Senior super fan Jacob Carey said he finished his homework during school hours to make sure he was able to attend sporting events.

Carey said he took many cheers that were used during the 2013 season, and then he added his own twist.

"It gives me something to do, and I love watching sports. It is the perfect opportunity," Carey said.

During the Battle of Broadway, Merrillville vs. Andrean, Senior Shaquita Dillard is about to be tossed by Seniors Javaun Willis and Jacob Carey and Junior Gregory Vega. "I was terrified. They kept throwing me up and letting me go," she said. Dillard was thrown into the air the same number of points the team scored.

Revue

Every year, students come together to showcase their talents to their fellow students and family.

With Mrs. Melinda Reinhart as the coordinator of the Revue once again, the students tried their best to make everything go as smoothly as possible.

"I made sure that the students were ready for the night by giving them two rehearsals and feedback on all of their performances," Mrs. Reinhart said.

Not only was Mrs. Reinhart running around making sure everything was set for the night, she also did her best to make the participants as comfortable and confident as possible.

"Mrs. Reinhart helped me by being very influential on making sure all of us had confidence in our talent," Senior Waymon Cruse said.

Cruse sang an uplifting song with his old Voices of Reason group for his last Revue.

The talents at the Revue vary from singing to dancing and acting.

Sophomore Corey Platts Jr. did a collaboration of singing and rapping with his sister Senior Britney Platts.

"My favorite part was getting up in front of everyone and being able to perform with my sister for her last year," Corey said.

They practiced for three months, making sure their cover was perfect.

The main idea of the Revue is to let everyone see the amazing talents that are hidden every day at Merrillville, and every year these talents are shown more than the year before.

In the first act, Sophomores Anna Davis and Hope Krajnak act out a two-minute skit. "It was supposed to be a comedy on talking and not being able to understand what the person is saying," Krajnak said. "I don't think the audience got the jokes because we had technical difficulties, but I love acting, so it was fun."

With Junior Meagan Clarkson playing guitar, Senior LeAnn Powell sings "Next to Me." "My absolute favorite part was the applause after we were done," Powell said. "Meagan played her guitar so well. It was just an enjoyable night that you kind of want to relive over again."

With her leg reaching into the air, Senior Raelyn Greene shows off her dance moves. "I love dance, and I've been doing it for a while," Greene said. "I work harder to be the best dancer I can be, and I loved dancing for the audience."

As she sings "I Am Ready for Love," Senior E'laija Mayo performs in the Revue for the second year in a row. "Singing is important to me because it's a good quality I retain," Mayo said. "I'm in choir, and it fills out my daily need to sing."

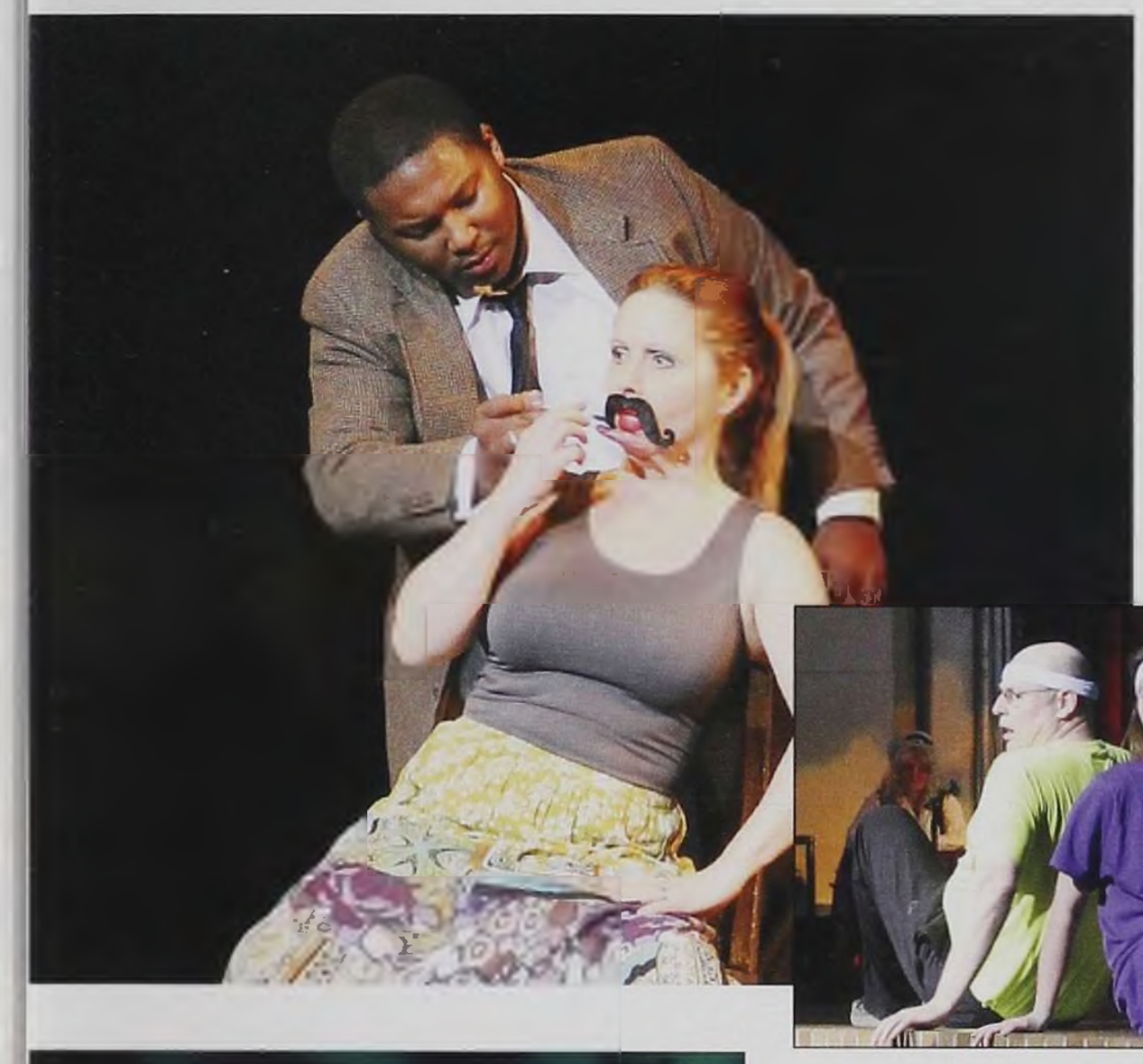
The dancing team of Seniors Timothy Howard and Calvin Graham move to the beat of a series of songs. "This is my first time really performing on the Reinhart stage," Graham said. "It was a good experience to get the crowd as hyped as we did. I loved the attention we got, and I'm glad we tried out."

With her guitar in hand, Freshman Cynthia Hindmon sings a cover of "Applause" by Lady Gaga. "I changed it up a little to make it my own," Hindmon said. "So many people told me they loved my change-up, and I look forward to doing the Revue again next year."

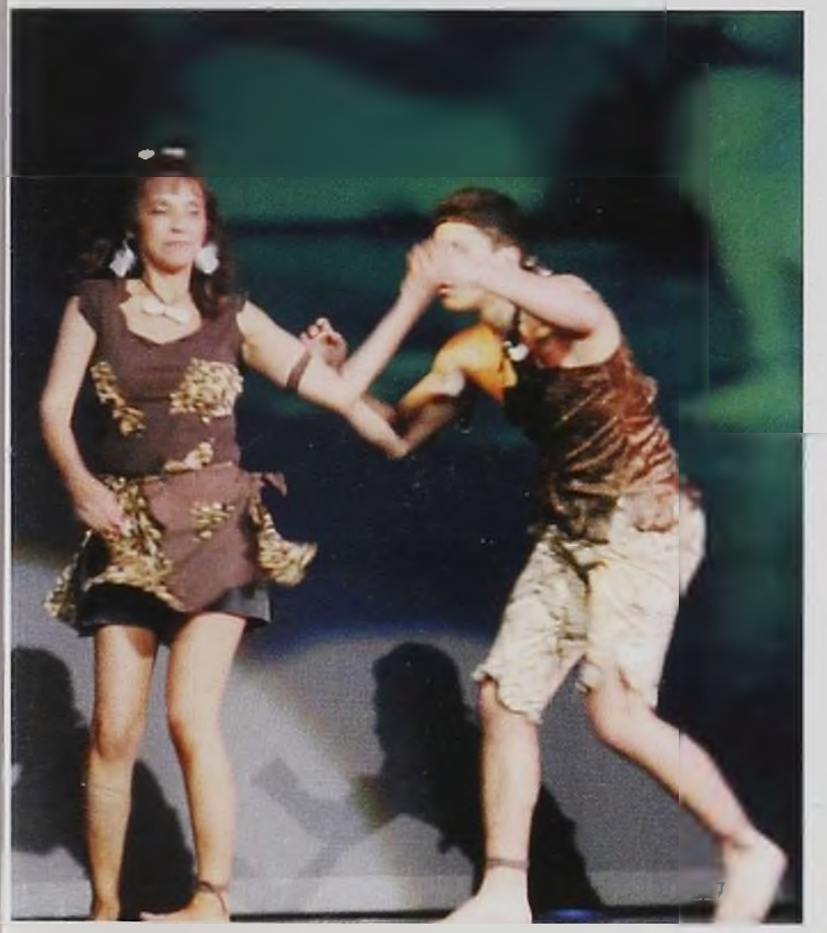
Dancing With MHS Stars

To end their dance, Senior Ashley Clemons and Mrs. Monica DaCostaGomez land on their knees, asking "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?" "We came in second place," Clemons said. "I wish her luck with her new partner next year."

Role-playing a sassy and outspoken Dolly Parton, Business Teacher Mrs. Sharon Row judges the Dancing with the MHS Stars with English Teachers Mr. Jason Sonnenberg and Mrs. Melissa Sickinger. Mrs. Row has been judging the MHS stars for three years. "Be yourself, and express yourself through creativity," Mrs. Row encouraged the dancers. "I love entertaining, and I love watching and judging the show."



During their dance routine, Senior William Akins III tries to remove a cigar from the mouth of his partner, Science Teacher Mrs. Patricia Robison. "I enjoy Will as a partner because he can dance and he's very focused," Mrs. Robison said. "I'm going to perform next year also. I plan to have long interview processes for anyone who wants to be my partner."



To begin their "Footloose" routine, Instructional Leader Mr. Byron Clark and Junior Cassidy Koontz sit back to back on the edge of the stage. "I made up the dance routine at the last minute," Koontz said. "It was very interesting learning the dance one day before the show, but I had a great partner who helped me through it all." Koontz and Clark placed third place in the competition.

Partners Copy Clerk Mrs. Martha Ortiz and Freshman Romeo Munoz perform on the stage. "I lost eight pounds while practicing for this event, and I had a very fun experience," Mrs. Ortiz said. "I didn't know Romeo before this, but he was the best dance partner in the world! If he asks me next year, I will dance with him again."

5, 6, 7, 8! This was the chant of six couples as they prepared for Dancing with the MHS Stars.

One of the first-time couples, Freshman Tyreak Thomas and In-School Suspension Supervisor Mrs. Beverly VanDrunen, said they were both surprised at how much work the show entailed.

"It was tough. Me and my partner didn't think it was going to be as intense," Thomas said..

Even though they did not place, both Thomas and Mrs. VanDrunen are ready to come back next year better than ever.

"We're definitely going to come back next year to win this" Thomas said. "Now that our competition's gone hopefully we'll have more of a chance next year."

Thomas was referring to Seniors Cree Smith and William Akins III. Both seniors competed in the Dancing with the MHS Stars competition for three years. Even though Smith and her partner Mr. Michael Engle did not place they were a crowd favorite.

Akins and his partner Mrs. Patricia Robison won first place. The judges selected the couple because of their inventive costume ideas and creative dance routines.

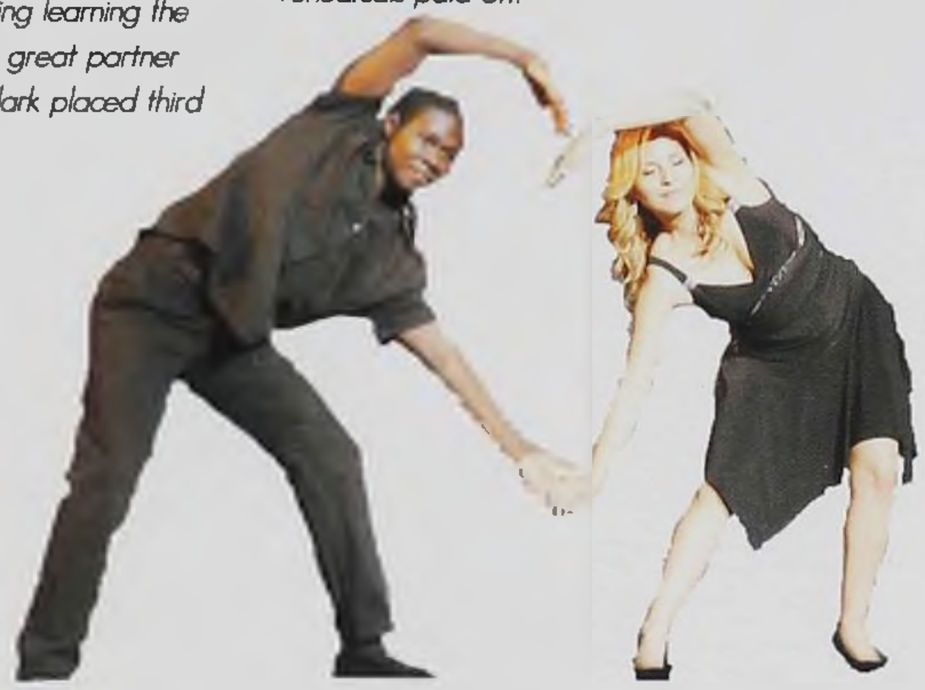
Dancing with the MHS Stars also left its technological mark on Thespian Troupe events. This year featured interviews, rehearsal videos and interactive voting.

"We wanted to make it more like the television show," Mr. Thomas Mackey said.

The audience was able to either tweet or text in their votes after the performance. Audience votes were counted as one-third of the participants' final scores.

"I think it worked really well," Mr. Mackey said. "Everyone has their opinion, and everyone had the power to make it known."

Dancing to "Dangerously in Love", Freshman Tyreak Thomas poses with his arms stretched to make a heart with partner In-School Suspension Supervisor Mrs. Beverly VanDrunen. "I picked Mrs. VanDrunen because she was cool, and I was in ISS all the time," Thomas said. "I had fun and all of our rehearsals paid off."



Brand new state, new musical

Students and teachers worked together to put on a performance of the American classic "Oklahoma!" as the spring musical.

"Oklahoma!" tells the tale of cowboys and farmers struggling to get along in early 20th century western territory.

Featuring new actors, new sets and a different style of musical. "Oklahoma!" was considered to be a learning experience for the entire cast and crew.

"I had to take a different approach to transferring the script to the stage," Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart said.

"Oklahoma!" was the first musical since the death of longtime choir and drama director Mr. Jerauld Reinhart. While the directors and actors did not have his direct input Mrs. Reinhart found help in Mr. Reinhart's old notes.

"The set designs for our production are from JJR's [Jerauld Reinhart] 2000 RMT [Ross Music Theatre] production of ' Oklahoma!'," Mrs. Reinhart said. "I have chosen to use JJR's blocking/choreography for musical numbers. I found his notes in his original score from the 1950s."

"Oklahoma!" was the final musical for lead actors Seniors Kiera Shackelford and William Akins III, who have been in every musical since their freshman year. As the end of their high school thespian careers neared, it was bittersweet for both.

"I'm sad because this is what I want to do," Shackelford said. "I wasn't sure of myself, and I am on stage. I'm good here, and now I have to start from the bottom."

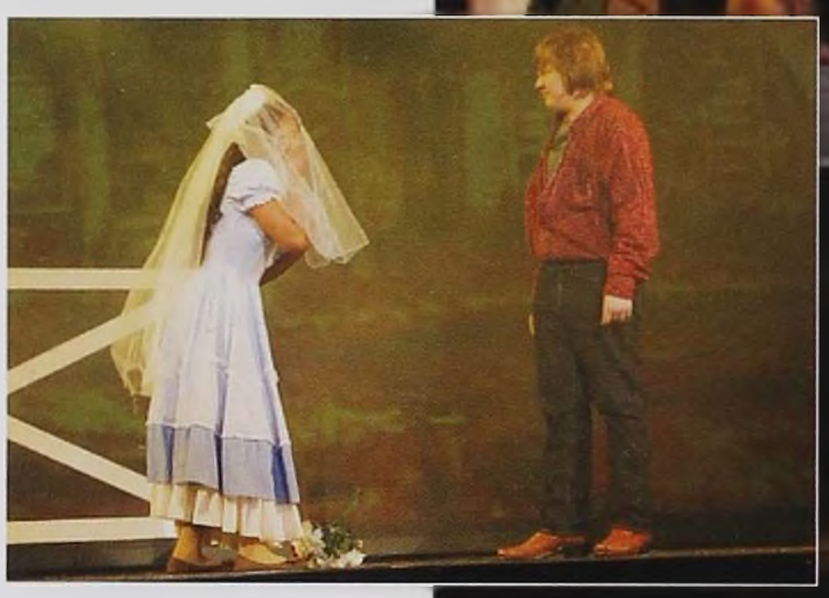
The spring musical was a beginning for others. Freshman Tyreak Thomas and Sophomore Jacob Reinhart had their first main character roles.

"I haven't been in many shows, but I've been in enough to know how they work," Thomas said. "I look forward to continuing to act in the rest of my high school career. I love it."

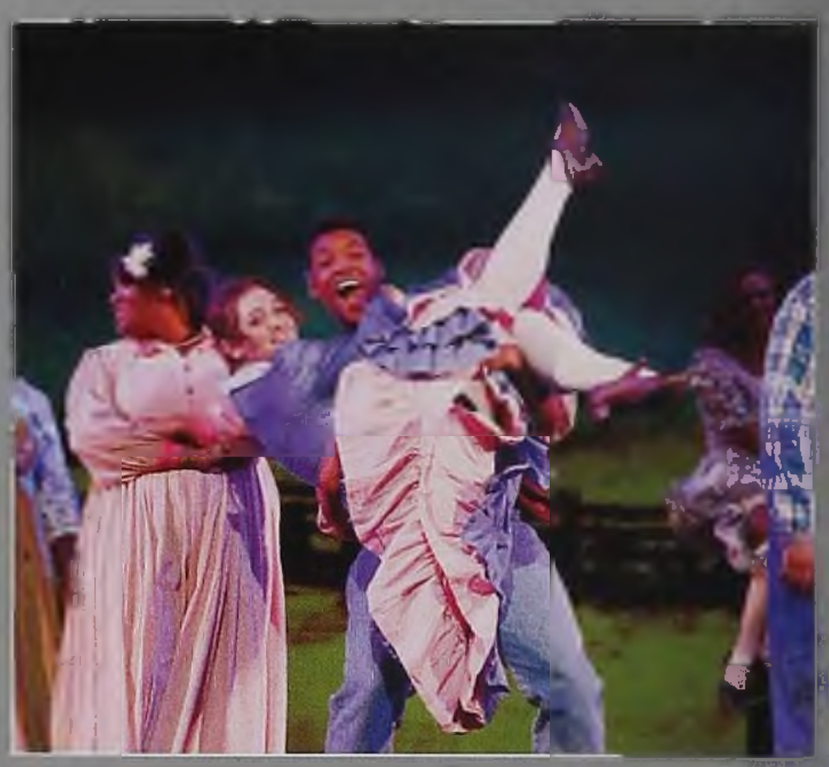
Preparing for the dance number "It's A Scandal, It's An Outrage," Ali Hakim (Freshman Tyreak Thomas) stands with his hands on his hips. "I was upset to marry the daughter by her father with a gun," Thomas said. In the dance number, Thomas must express outrage at having to marry a farmer's daughter and give up his bachelor status.

While Curley (Senior William Akins III) sings to Laurey (Senior Kiera Shackelford), they look into each other's eyes. Akins said Shackelford's character was playing hard to get. "I loved playing this character," Shackelford said. "In all the plays I've been in, I had the most lines in this one."

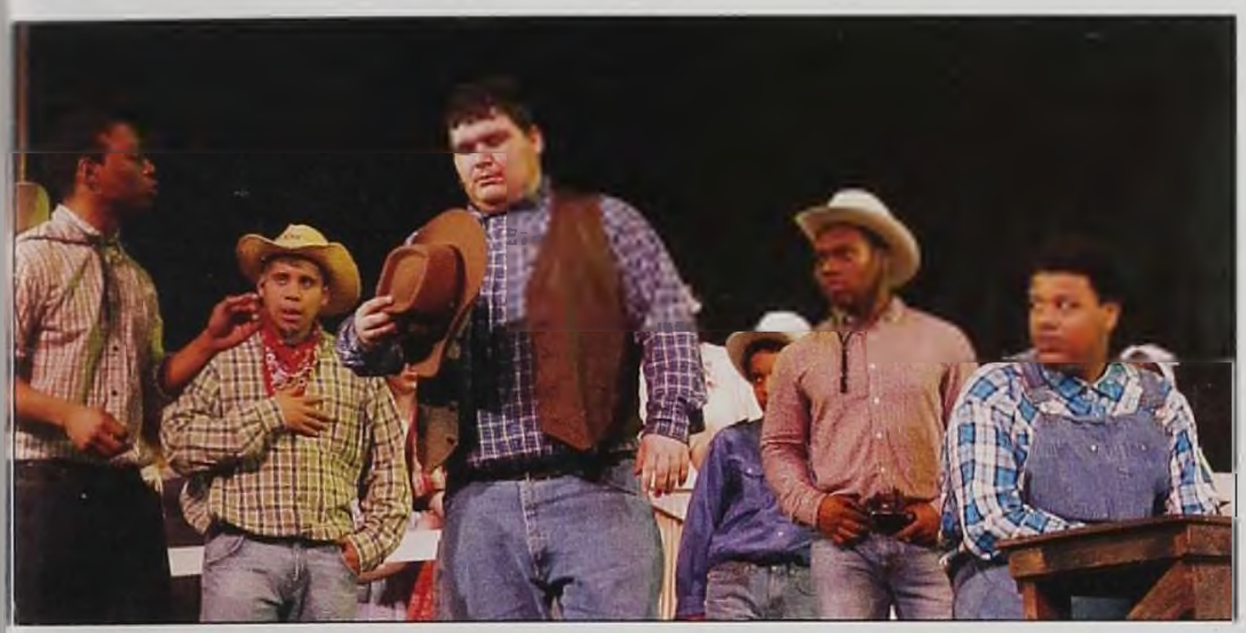
During her dream, Laurey (Senior Kiera Shackelford) is surprised to see Jud Fry (Sophomore Jacob Reinhart). "Jacob's character was pretty interesting," Shackelford said. "He had a mental problem, and he was persistent in trying to be with my character romantically."



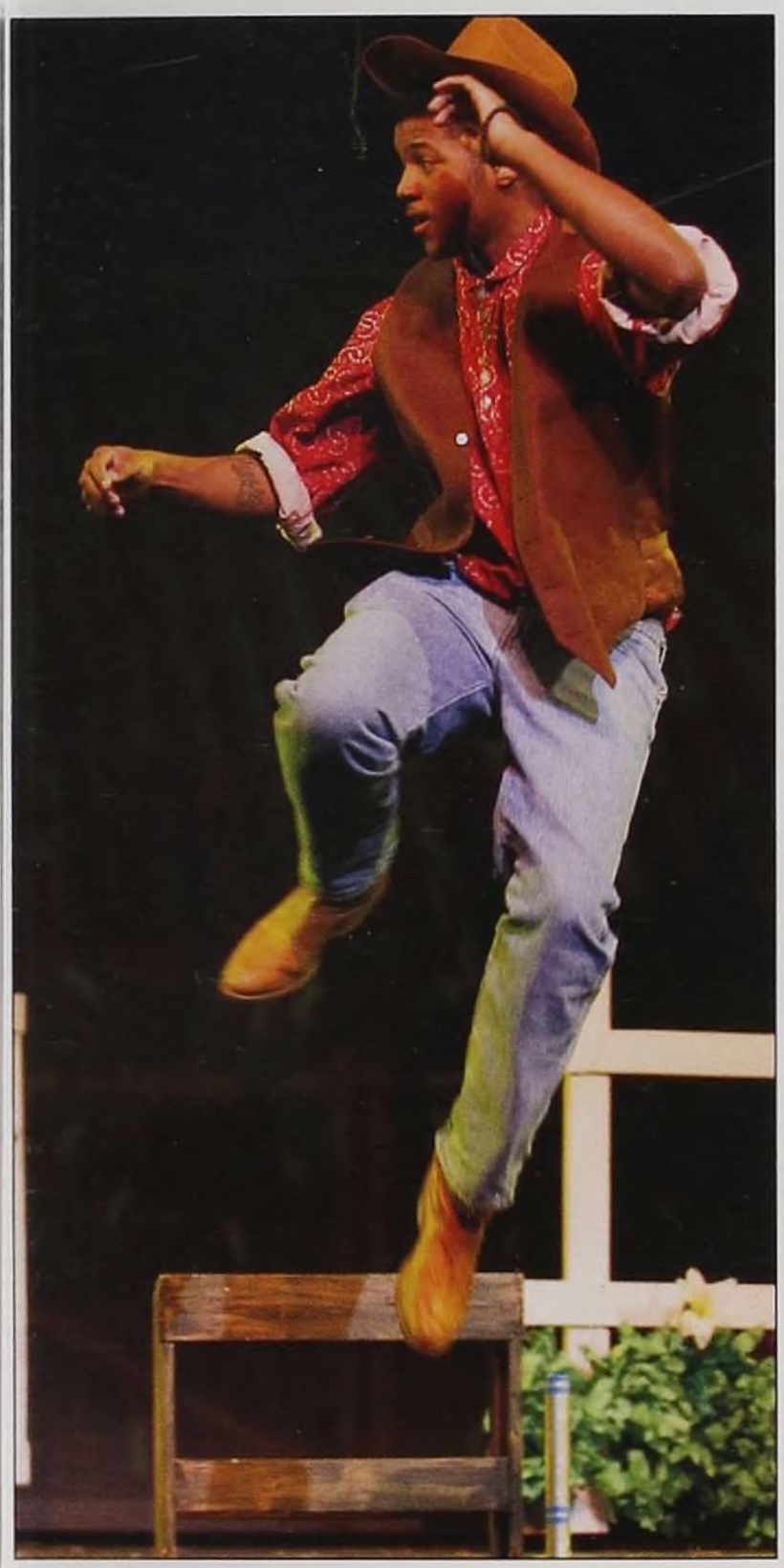
At the beginning of the play, Gertie (Senior Domonique Smith) and Curley (Senior William Akins III) walk arm in arm on stage together. "The audience realizes who Curley has used to replace Laurey," Smith said. Smith also said her biggest contribution to the play was the fight scene at the end of the play.



In the middle of a play, Will Parker (Junior Rashawn Mills) lifts Ado Annie Carnes (Senior Rebekah Mongold) to end a dance scene. Parker is the love interest of Carnes, but she is cheating with another man. "Both characters are goofy and dumb," Mongold said.

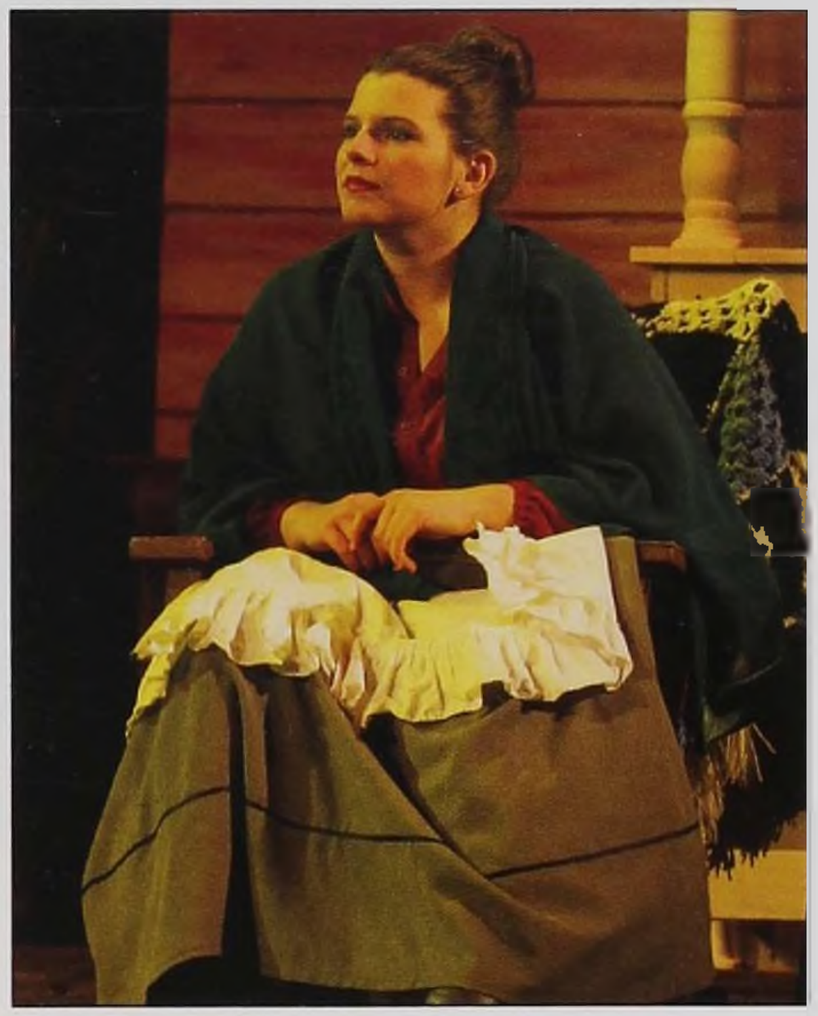


The local cowboys of Oklahoma conduct a trial when Curley (William Akins III) is accused of killing Jud Fry (Sophomore Jacob Reinhart). "The fight scene where I die was really interesting," Reinhart said. "Stage fighting in general is interesting."



As he dances to "Kansas City," Will Parker (Junior Rashawn Mills) hops into the air. "That dance was hard," Mills said. "The others and I that did the dance practiced over and over until we finally got it." The dance was about three minutes long, and the boys agreed that their hard work paid off significantly.

While sitting outside, Aunt Eller (Senior Cassandra Govert) watches Curly and Laurey flirt with each other. Govert said her biggest challenge was memorizing the lines with the southern accent. "My favorite parts of the play were probably seeing all of us come together, actually looking forward to rehearsal and just getting to act like someone other than myself," Govert said.



After the big production is complete, Curley (Senior William Akins III) strikes the final pose that's held for 15 to 20 seconds. "My favorite part of the entire show was when we got to perform it in the memory of Mr. Reinhart," Akins said. "We got to bring to life his script, notes and vison of the show, while giving it a modern fresh flair."

Main Characters

Kiera Shackleford
as Laurey Williams

"My character is very confident in herself. She doesn't need a guy. Her outside is a hard shell but you can tell she has a golden heart.

Will Akins
as Curley Willams

"Curley was the hardest character I ever had to play because he was the furthest from my own personality."

Jacob Reinhart
as Jud Fry

"My character was misunderstood. He's really messed up because of people not treating him fairly because of his disability."

Tyreak Thomas
as Ali Hakim

"I would describe my character as me. A fun and goofy character. It was a very easy role to play."

Rebekah Mongold
as Ado Annie Carnes

"She's not very smart. She's goofy, and she's very naive."

Rashawn Mills
as Will Parker

"My character was goofy and really gullible. I'm goofy, but I had to adjust to being so dumb."

Cassandra Govert
as Aunt Eller

"She was a crazy old lady, very blunt. She was in everybody's lives, and she was very protective of Laurey."

Prom Court

Juniors Jenna Jurczyk, Jaz Talley, Keristen Lucero, Mariana Cantu and Jada Shannon gather for a photo before the crowning of the Prom Queen. Teachers nominated the court, and students who attended Prom chose the royalty.

Every year, five junior girls and five junior boys vie for the elusive title of Prom King or Prom Queen. Faculty members nominate candidates for Prom Court.

"It felt really great to be nominated," Junior Mariana Cantu said. "It's just nice to know that your teachers think highly of you."

Each candidate received a special gift from Prom sponsor Mrs. Kristina Musielak to celebrate his or her nomination.

"The gift was definitely a nice touch," Junior Jenna Jurczyk said. "All the girls were given a compact with 'Prom Court 2014' engraved on it and the guys received a wallet with the same inscription."

With the nomination process out of the way, candidates were whisked into the world of campaigning to garner the votes of their peers

"I passed out little suckers and mints," Junior Keristen Lucero said. "Each one had little labels that said things like 'Vote for Keristen' and 'Keristen's so sweet'."

Along with campaigning, the nominees participated in a special Prom edition of PNN's Friday Show and hosted the morning announcements.

"The PNN skit was probably the most fun because it was based on sabotage," Jurczyk said. "I filmed my scene with Jada Shannon, and she basically sabotages me by ruining my makeup."

Though the candidates were grateful for their nominations, some wished the nomination and voting process panned out differently.

"I'm definitely thankful for the nomination," Junior Vejer Cox said, "but it would've been nice to be notified earlier and to allow the whole school to vote."

Despite some bumps along the road, the nominees were hopeful that Prom would be a wonderful experience.

"It was mayhem being that I went through a breakup right around Valentine's Day" Cantu said. "Luckily, though, my best friend Alice is willing to go with me."

Juniors Vejer Cox, Andres Carrillo, Terrance Grayson, Gregory Vega Jr. and Andrew Merced wait on stage for Principal Mr. Michael Krutz to announce the winner.

Campaign Campaign

With a smile on his face, Junior Andrew Merced waits to start his PNN interview. "I was very excited to be nominated. I feel very honored that my teachers picked me," Merced said.

Campaigning with T-shirts to promote herself, Junior Jaz Talley and friends pose for the camera. "I gave the shirts to some of my best friends and family and Mrs. Nic," Talley said.

Handing a cookie to Senior Janelle Taylor, Junior Mariana Cantu campaigns for Prom votes. "I stayed up for two hours the night before making the cases for the cookies," Cantu said.

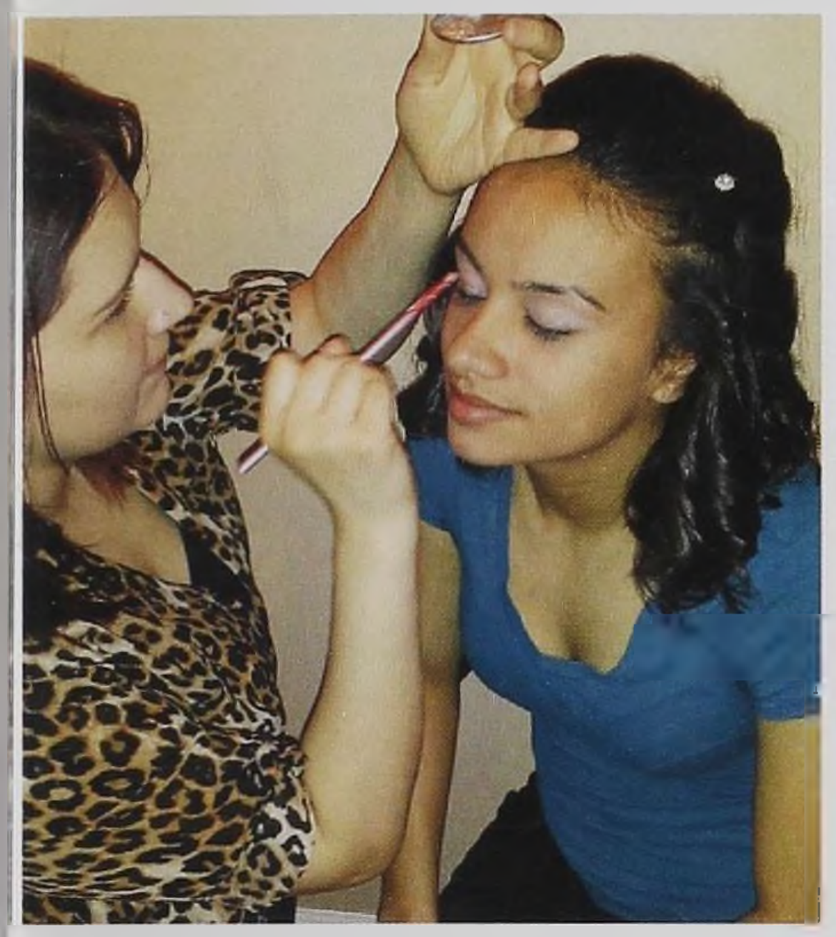
Focused on opening his locker, Junior Vejer Cox shows off his T-shirt. "I wanted a crown on it so people could tell I was on Prom Court," Cox said. Cox said his shirt was inspired by his favorite colors.

Vote for ME!

Campaign Campaign

Vote for ME!

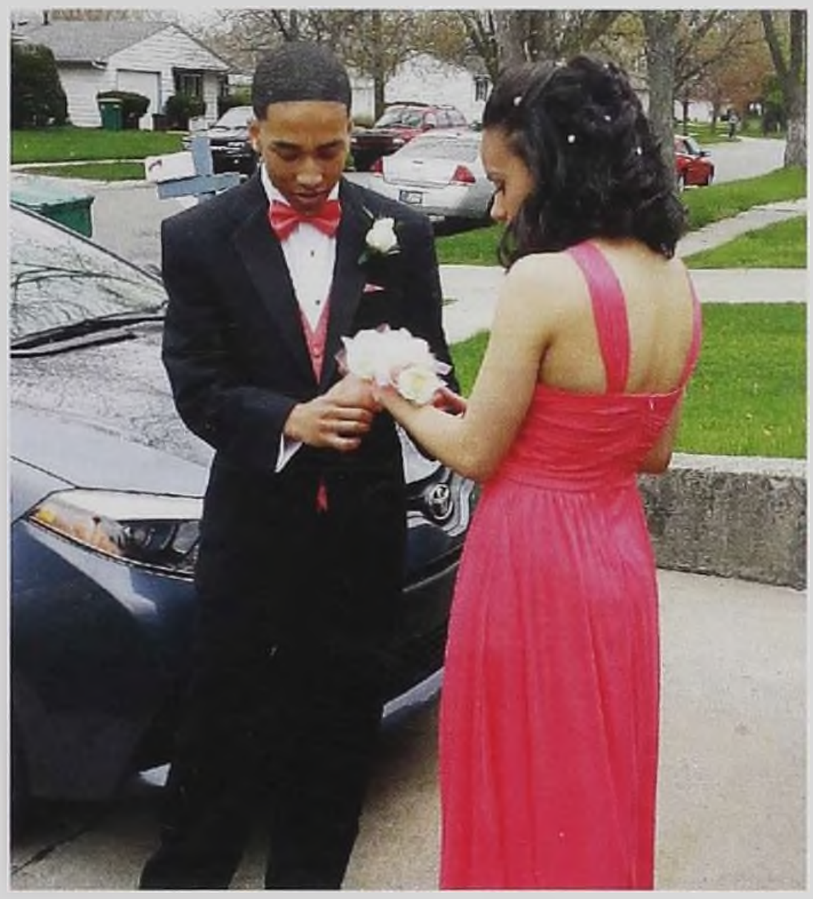
Prom Preparations



In preparation for Prom, a makeup artist applies eye shadow to Junior Crystal Cabrera. Despite many challenges along the way, Cabrera was able to make the best of her first Prom experience. "I was not happy at all with how my hair came out. First, my hairstylist couldn't do the style I wanted, so I chose from what she could do, and it didn't turn out very nice," Cabrera said. "Luckily, my mom and sister were able to fix it up and make it look better."

To get ready for her first Prom, Senior Megan Austin gets her hair done. Austin and her stylist were talking about her plans for Disney World, and she received many tips about the trip. "We were just hanging out," Austin said. "I got my extensions in and got my hair curled. It was all about 20 bucks."

Buttoning up his vest, Senior Landon Rosa prepares himself for Prom. To have a great end to his senior year, Rosa went with his best friend Junior Kaylee Ross from Kouts High School. "We were feeling excited," Rosa said His Prom group was what made the experience so fun. "We're all so similar," Rosa said. "We're all loud, energetic and laugh all the time."



Before heading off to Prom, Junior Cameron Bracey slips a corsage on date Junior Crystal Cabrera's wrist. The Cabreras enjoyed the bittersweet experience of having their last daughter go off to Prom. "My family was super excited about me going to Prom," Cabrera said. "I'm the baby girl of the family, so it was bittersweet for them to see me all dressed up and looking like a young lady."

Ready to go to the Grand March, Senior Megan Austin's Prom group poses for one last picture. Her group consisted of Senior Kiera Shackelford, Sophomore Rashawn Mills, Senior Rebekah Mongold, Junior Micah Burgstahler, Austin, Senior Domonique Lambert and Seniors Domonique Smith and Adam Tapper. "My Prom group was probably the best I could've gone with," Austin said.

With the door held open by her date Senior Domonique Lambert, Senior Megan Austin gets into her limo. The couple rode in the limo to the Grand March. They separated from their Prom group to prepare for their weekend. Austin and Lambert went to Disney World together to top off their first Prom experience. "If Prom were an ocean," Austin said, "I would grow gills and swim in the ocean forever."

Sanchez uses friends, question mark, rose to win over his Prom date

Prom is a night where dreams come true and memories are made. Sophomore Sabrina Sanchez's dream came true when her boyfriend, Junior Arnold Sanchez asked her to Prom during her gymnastics meet.

He felt like it was the right time, considering it was the team's first meet.

"I wanted it to be special. I made a big sign and made sure she knew it was from me," Arnold said.

With the help of his friends, Sanches spent two weeks to plan and get everything together for the Prom-posal. Sophomore Brian Baran held the "P", and Juniors Gregory Vega Jr., Jeremiah Jones, Ernesto Lopez Jr. and Arnold held the "R", "O", "M", and "?" with a pink rose.

Sabrina and Arnold started dating only a couple months before Prom.

"We were both aware of our feelings for each other," Arnold said.

Sabrina was shocked by the gesture.

"It was the first gymnastics meet he has ever been to, I felt surprised." Sabrina said. At first she said she didn't know the signs were for her.

"When he came out with the question mark and the rose, that's when I knew it was for me," Sabrina said.

Arnold believed that the relationship was stronger than their friendship they had before they dated.

"We had only been going out for two months. I didn't see it coming. I had an amazing night. It when exactly the way I wanted."

Prom-Posal

Want to go to Prom with me?

Welcome to 'Candyland'

Like kids in a candy store, 2014 Promgoers were met with visions of lollipops and candy with the theme of "Sweet Dreams." Bright colors and cutouts of candy set the scene for the Grand March. When students arrived at the Avalon for the dance, they were met with candy scattered on the tables. To add to the whimsical theme, songs from the Disney musical "Frozen" were even played.

"Frozen came on, and I sang so loud," Senior Damian DiGangi said.

Even the Prom Queen, Junior Jaz Talley, chose a gown that fit into the candy theme. She was crowned while wearing a bright pink dress, almost the color of cotton candy.

"I didn't expect to win" Talley said. "It was a fun, amazing, exciting experience."

Talley was not the only student who had a great time at Prom. Junior Terrance Grayson was crowned Prom King at the Grand March.

"I was shocked," Grayson said. "It was so memorable."

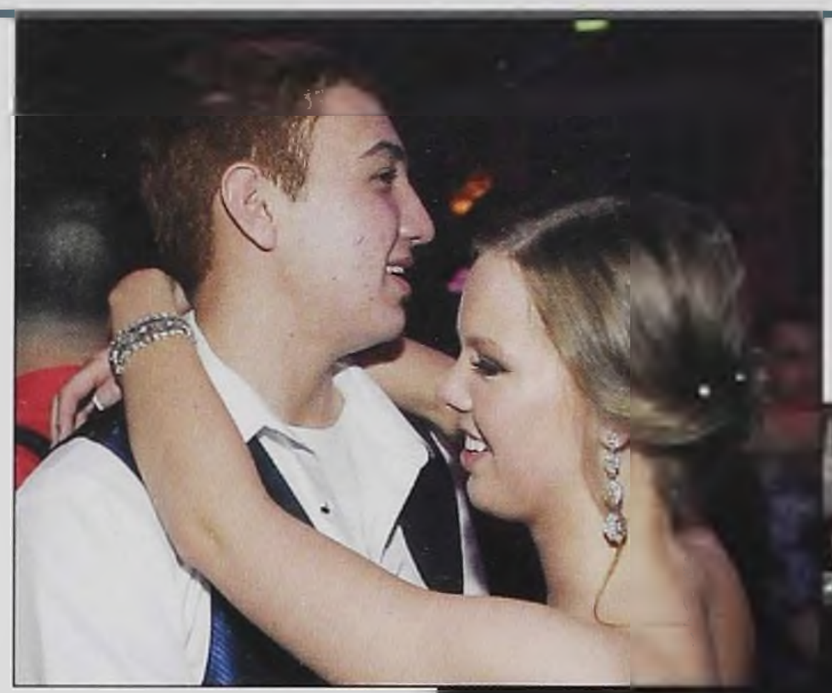
While the venue was a main focal point, the attire of fellow Promgoers was also a source of attention. Compliments were passed from person to person, and others said they took pictures solely because of the stunning apparel.

"Everyone looked so beautiful," Junior Morgan Lesich said.

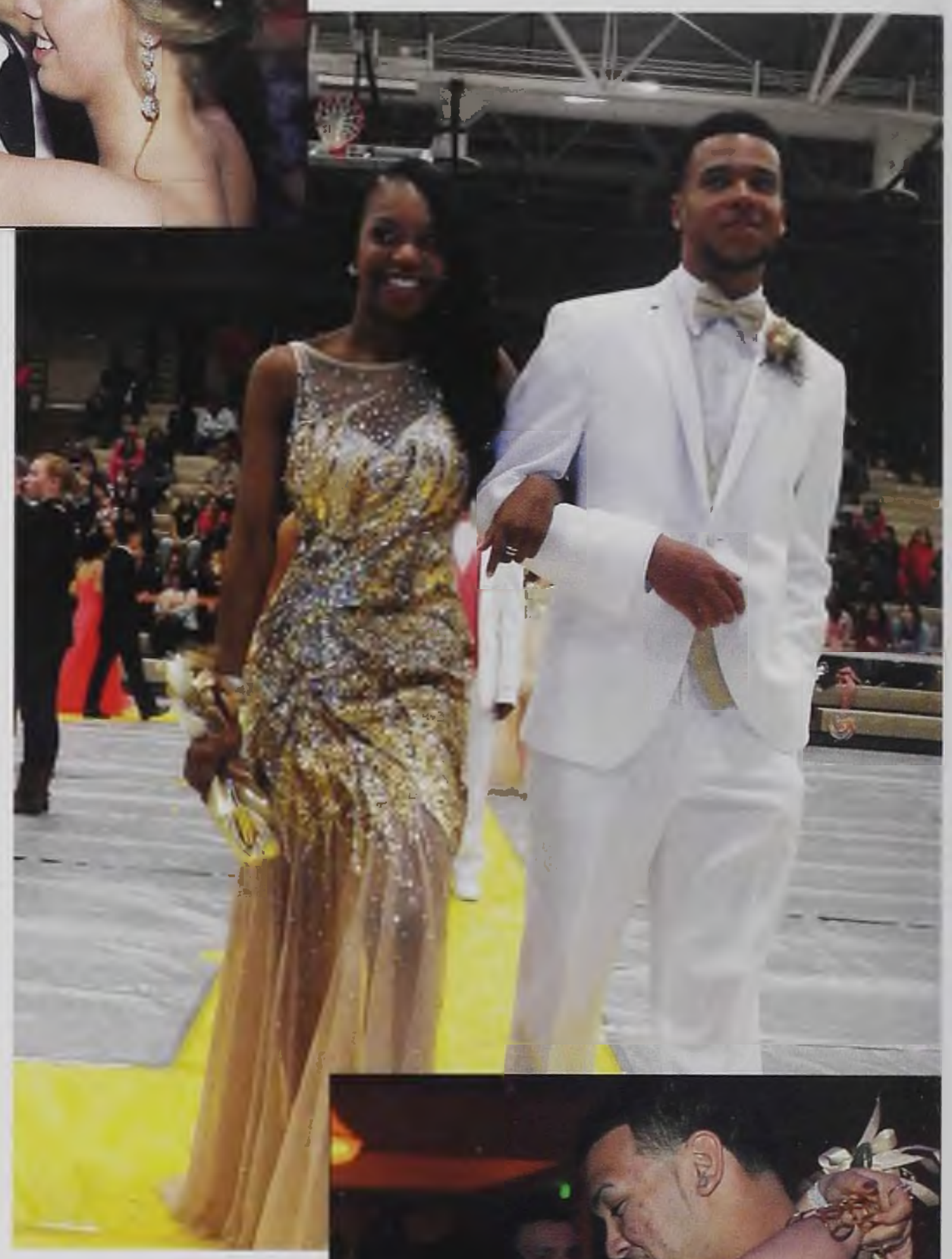
Many Promgoers spent the weekend traveling to different attractions. Students went to Six Flags, Cedar Point, Wisconsin Dells, and even Disney World.

"We went to Wisconsin Dells," DiGangi said. "We played laser tag, mini golf and went zip lining. Of course, we went to the water park, too"

The students who attended Prom agreed that this was a great way to end their year. "You know how children see Prom on television and fantasize about it?" Senior Megan Austin said, "Well, this Prom greatly exceeded the expectations I've had since I was a little girl."



With Senior Isabella Steven's arms wrapped around him, Junior Gregory Vega Jr., dances to a slow song while thinking of what the rest of the night holds. After prom, Vega had one of the best weekends of his high school life. "I had a really good time with my group at the Dells over the weekend," Vega said.

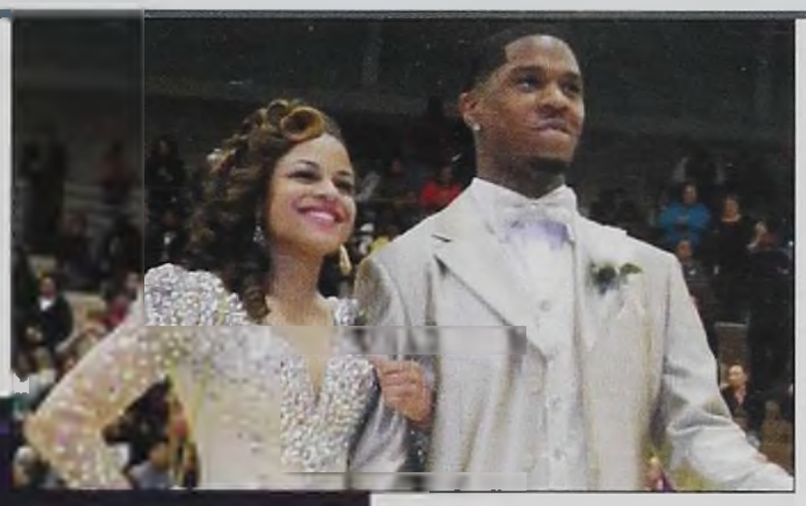


As she strolls down the walkway of the Grand March with her boyfriend, Darrail Brown, Senior Asia Wilson enjoys the Prom atmosphere. "Prom was amazing. Everything came out perfect. I had so much fun dancing the night away with my boyfriend," Wilson said. Wilson believed the best part of prom was shared with her family. "My favorite moment was having all of my family see me and take pictures with me. They all made me feel like a celebrity," Wilson said.

As the night progresses, Junior Jairus-Michael Perry slow dances with his date from Hobart High School, Senior Gina Kelly. "I thought it would be fun to go with someone different," Perry said. For Perry's first Prom, the night went better than the expectations. "The party bus was where it was at. Seeing everyone dressed up was pretty interesting, too."

While getting out of the limo, Senior E'laija Mayo is greeted by Principal Michael Krutz at the Avalon. Mayo's experience at Prom was like a fairy tale for her. "My night was magical. I had my first slow dance, my boyfriend treated me like a queen and I had fun with my friends," Mayo said. The night went very dream-like for her. "I felt like Princess Tiana," Mayo said.

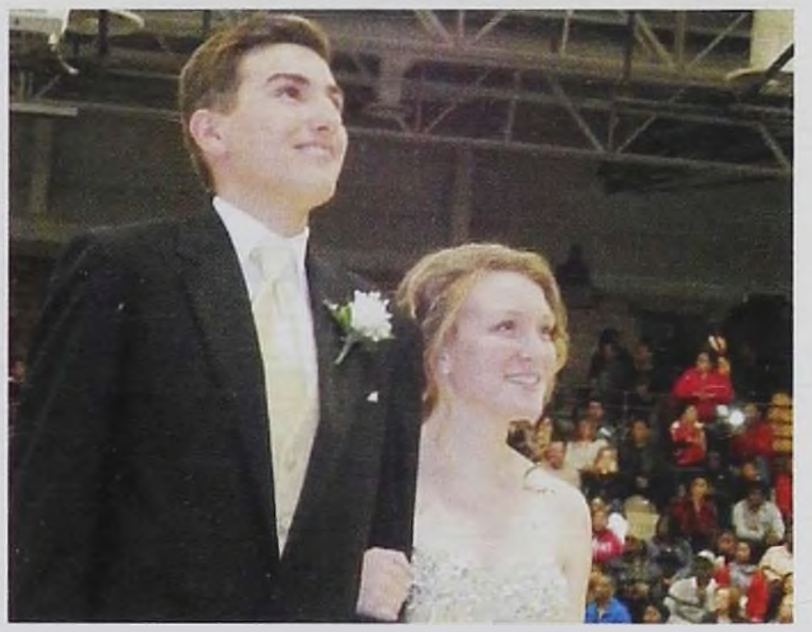
After taking two hours to get ready, Senior Marshawna Kendrick poses with her boyfriend Senior Deven Lee. For Kendrick, the actual dance doesn't compare to the festivities afterward. "My favorite moment was having fun on the party bus! It was ten times better than Prom itself," Kendrick said. She also had a better time than her previous year. "The people I was with this year were more fun," Kendrick said.



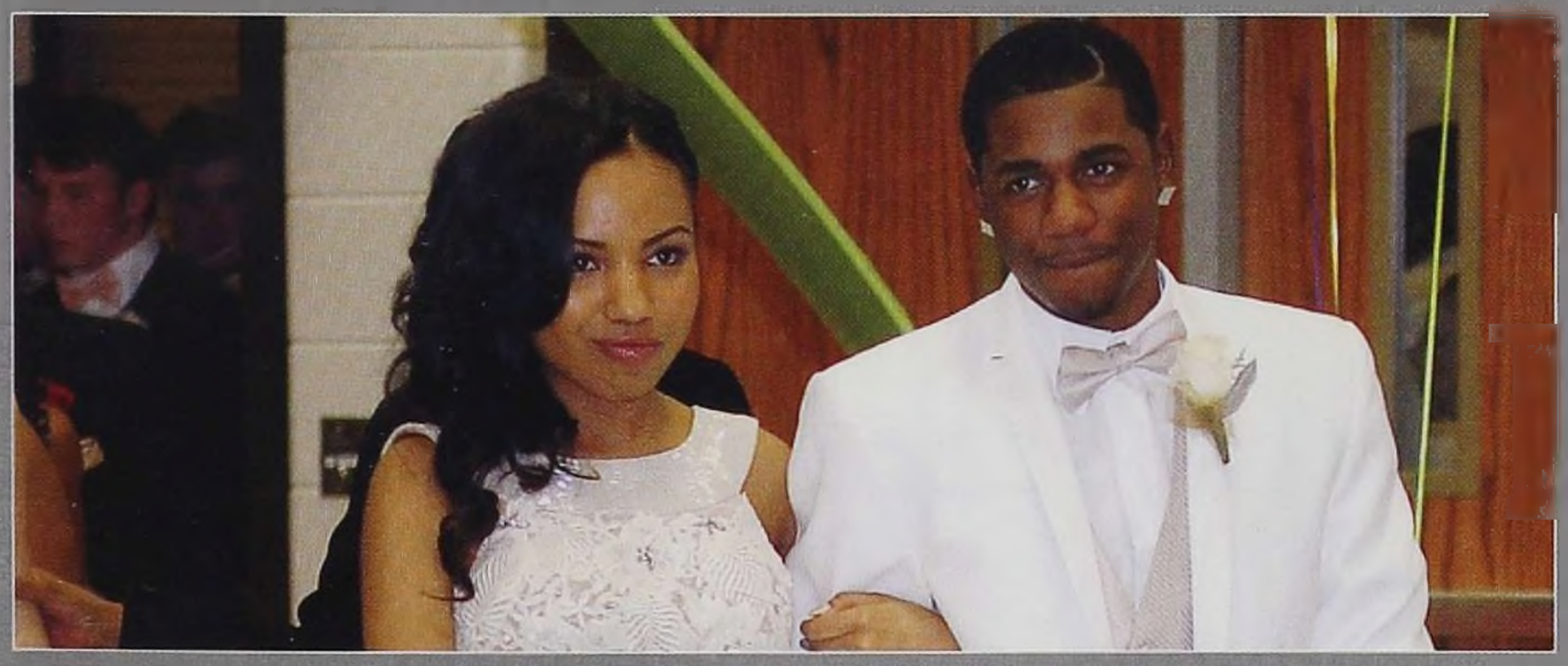
Alongside her friends, Senior Brooke Grady dances and sings on stage at Prom. "Dancing on stage in front of the student body was my favorite moment," Grady said. After Prom, Grady went to the Cheesecake Factory in Chicago with her group.

Posing on the walkway at the Grand March, Senior Marisa Black pauses with a smile on her face. "I loved being on our party bus and going to the Cheesecake Factory after Prom," Black said. She said her look was inspired by Reality TV star Kim Kardashian. "It took me about three hours to get ready with the help of my sister Kendall," Black said. Black bought her dress from Cupid Couture in Valparaiso.

After being crowned Prom Queen, Junior Jaz Talley dances with newly crowned King Junior Terrance Grayson. For Talley, being pronounced high school royalty was a dream come true. "It felt amazing. I was nervous at first, but then it was a relief after the crowning," Talley said. As for Prom preparation, it took about four hours and the help of her mom for Talley to get ready.



While walking in the Grand March with her date Charlie Shields from Boone Grove, Senior Alexis Deter is ready after weeks of preparation. "Prom planning started at the beginning of April, and it took me about three hours from when I got my hair done to walking out of my house," Deter said. Deter shared her most cherished moment of the night with her date. "My favorite moment was walking down my stairs and seeing Charlie's reaction," Deter said.



Strutting down the Grand March, Senior Chialyn Campbell walks arm in arm with her date, Sharell Ivey Jr. "Seeing everyone look nice at the Grand March and Prom was my favorite part of the whole night," Ivey said. After Prom, Ivey and Campbell went to The Grand Lux restaurant in Chicago.

Pen in hand, Sophomore Anna Davis looks at her ECA workbook. Davis scored a perfect 700 on her English ECA. Davis said she benefited from being in English Teacher Mrs. Teresa Procter's class. "She's a fantastic teacher. Her teaching methods helped improve my writing," Davis said

At her desk, Guidance Counselor Mrs. Cari Hooper searches through the course guide. The school offers 168 different courses. "I believe students really benefit from going to this school because of the different courses we offer," Mrs. Hooper said. "There is at least one course for everyone."

In Mrs. Hannah Corrado's Spanish I Class, Sophomore Brian Baran follows along in his workbook. Baran said he liked learning all the different Spanish cultures. "A lot of my friends speak Spanish, so I wanted to learn the language," Baran said.

Walking into the gym for his surprise student assembly to celebrate his Principal of the Year Award, Mr. Michael Krutz takes a moment to contemplate the scene before him. "My favorite part about the pep rally was that my mom was there. She taught me my work ethic. She always told me that I determine my own destiny," Mr. Krutz said.

Mr. Krutz determines his own destiny

Being an educator was Mr. Michael Krutz's second career choice.

He said he originally wanted to be a manufacturing representative. At the time, he substituted for teachers.

"Being a substitute teacher and coach really changed my mind about what I wanted to do. I really enjoyed working with the students," Mr. Krutz said.

Mr. Krutz taught for 14 years before becoming an assistant principal. After five years, Mr. Krutz then became the principal. Nine years later, Indiana Principals Association named Mr. Krutz Principal of the Year.

"It is a collaborative award. There are many stakeholders to drive the decisions within the school," Mr. Krutz said.

Mr. Krutz said many traits make a good principal. He believes a principal should be visible and available. He said he thinks being a good decision-maker plays a big part.

"Merrillville has good teachers that understand the importance of building relationships with the students before learning takes place," Mr. Krutz said.

The award was presented to him in Indianapolis. Several other administrators joined him at this banquet.

"I felt that my hard work paid off," Mr. Krutz said.

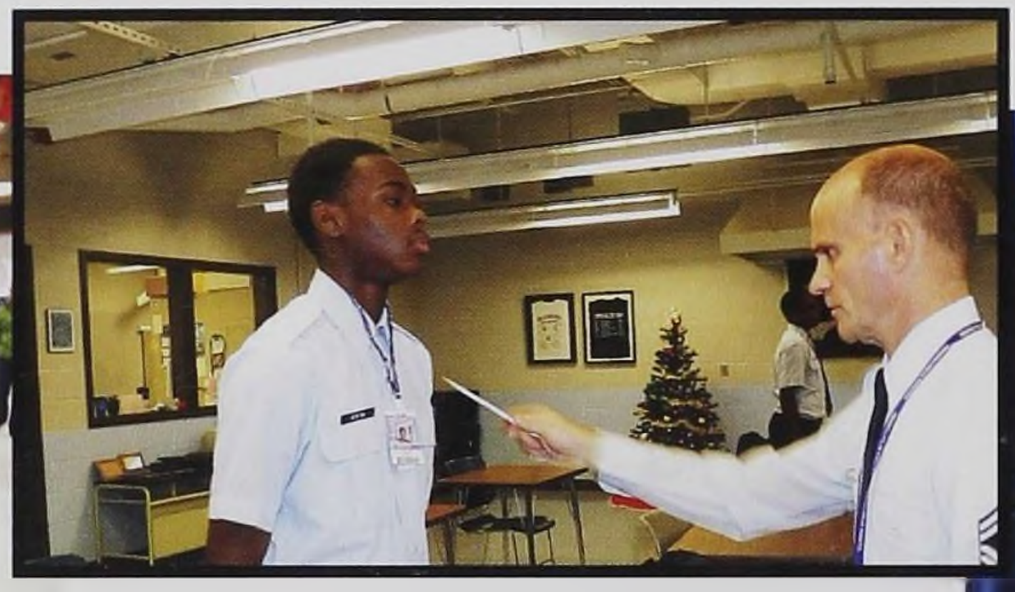
The administration staff decided to surprise him with a school wide pep rally. Administrators, teachers and students spoke at the pep rally. The cheerleaders performed their routine "William Tell" as Mr. Krutz stood on a ladder and waved the school flag. The Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council presented a banner.

"I was completely clueless. I had no idea that was going to happen," Mr. Krutz said. "Even though I received this award, I am not content," he said. "We will continue to work hard. Everyone needs to be a part of the process to create student improvement and achievement."

Air Force Junior

As he walks ahead of the drill team, Senior Marcus Bass leads the other students in drill practice. "I have been the arm team commander for the past two years," Bass said. "Basically, I give out flight commands and the others execute." Bass's rank in the class was Cadet Lieutenant Colonel, and it was his job to make sure the programs ran smoothly.

To keep a clear mind as blood is drawn, Junior Cameron Wingate listens to her music. "ROTC has opened my eyes to structures like college prep and teamwork," Wingate said. Wingate has been in JROTC for three years and is a cadet senior airman. At her rank, she looks after the younger cadets who participate in the class.



Standing straight with his arms at his side, Freshman Dajon Newton receives a routine inspection from Senior Master Sergeant Dan Wrasman. Newton's interest in the military brought him into the JROTC program. "So far, I'm enjoying the class. I chose it because I was interested in the military," Newton said. He had to adjust to being inspected daily for any flaws in his uniform.

While the national anthem is sung, Junior Donald Long holds the American flag. "I enjoyed taking part in presenting the flag and just being at the Military Ball," Long said. Long was enrolled in the class for three years and was ranked as a Lieutenant Colonel.

AFJROTC benefits students who will go into the military

As the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps grew, students learned that developing self-reliance and responsiveness to all authority could help them be prepared for their life after high school.

Many students appreciate such a program.

"My character has changed in so many ways due to how we are directed to do certain tasks," Senior Samuel Trent said.

Students have benefitted from the rigor of the program due to aspects like physical fitness and performing at drill meets.

"We practice Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays to have a clean drill routine," Major Guy Ramey said. "We work hard to be the best."

Now in its tenth year, AFJROTC has continuously prepared students for life and helped to develop knowledge of basic military skills.

"I'm going into the Marines once I graduate high school," Senior Kathleen Mitchell said. "At first, I didn't think I was ready, but it seems like a nice career path to go down."

Taking three to four years of AFJROTC allows cadets the ability to achieve a higher rank should they decide to pursue a military career

"I'm on the Advanced Drill Team," Senior Josiah Grey said. "It's an interesting experience that makes me feel better as a person."

AFJROTC has been active at MHS since 2003 and has grown in size with each passing year

"Every year since we've started ROTC, we've been maxed out with students because they hear how good it is for them," Major Ramey said.

Building relationships with one another is one component that cadets enjoy the most.

"Most people in ROTC are like family, and I formed a strong bond with them over the last two years," Mitchell said.

Students have to follow core values as part of the class.

"Our core values are integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do," Trent said. "Following those values makes great character-building methods and helps build better citizens for America."

Drill Team Competitions

Anchor Bay, Michigan Drill Meet
Advanced Armed Drill Team - 1st
Advanced Unarmed Drill Team - 3rd
Inspection Team - 2nd

Physical Training Meet, Bloom Trail, Illinois
3rd overall
Brandon Fassoth - Push-Up Competition Champion
Team Competition
Tug-of-War - 2nd
Relay Race - 2nd

Reserve Officer Training Corps

Bowing his head with his glass in his hand, Senior Alexander Begala prepares to take part in another toast. "During the intro, we were toasting the POW and MIA, or people in the military," Begala said. He was the cadet major during the course. He was in charge of making sure that all of the uniforms were returned and all debts were paid.

Left: In complete silence, Senior Jacob Stocker sets a rose on the table for those who served in the military but have not come back. "I've been in ROTC for three years, and it has been an amazing experience," Stocker said. Stocker's rank in the class was cadet major. Top Right: At the beginning of the Military Ball, Freshman Scarlett Smith sings the national anthem. "I love the entire program. It helps build character and helps to create leadership," Smith said. During her first year of the course, Smith was a commander of the Drill Team, and she helped out behind the scenes with the instructors. Bottom Right: During weekly inspection, Senior Master Sergeant Dan Wrasman corrects Junior Darwind Chism on the placement of his nametag. "The display examples in the classroom help me a lot. I've nearly gotten perfect on each inspection since the beginning of the year," Chism said. Each week on Wednesday, JROTC classes are expected to dress properly in uniform for 100 points, which is worth as much as a test grade. This grade accounts for 30 percent of each student's overall JROTC grade

Q&A How does ROTC benefit you?

"Instead of being an E1, I'm going to be an E3. Will get higher pay."
Senior Marcus Bass

"It teaches leadership education and how to be a well-rounded citizen."
Junior Nathan Fles

"I want to go into the military. It will benefit me by giving me more experience for the future."
Freshman James Davis

"I became a better leader and problem solver. I became more active in school."
Sophomore Antonio Cornelius

"The benefits for cadets are discipline, structure and guidance through high school. It also helps if the student chooses to go into the military."
Senior Master Sergeant Daniel Wrasman

"Being involved in AFJROTC enriched my life by giving me the opportunity to interact with many people from different backgrounds, which I otherwise wouldn't have met."
Major Guy Ramey

English

In Mrs. Carrie Bedwell's English 12 class, Senior Jaqela Macon answers questions posed by her interviewers, Seniors Diante Montgomery and Brittany Jewell, as they conduct a skit of a woman being interviewed for a job at a clothing store. "Mrs. Bedwell teaches us how it is going to be when we graduate from high school and get into the real world," Montgomery said.

Department offers much more than requirements

Mandatory tests and English classes may dominate a student's schedule during high school, yet elective classes in the English Department offer students a chance to pursue their passions.

Each student must take English for four years and earn nine credits, and for sophomores, the End of Course Assessment (ECA) in English is mandatory.

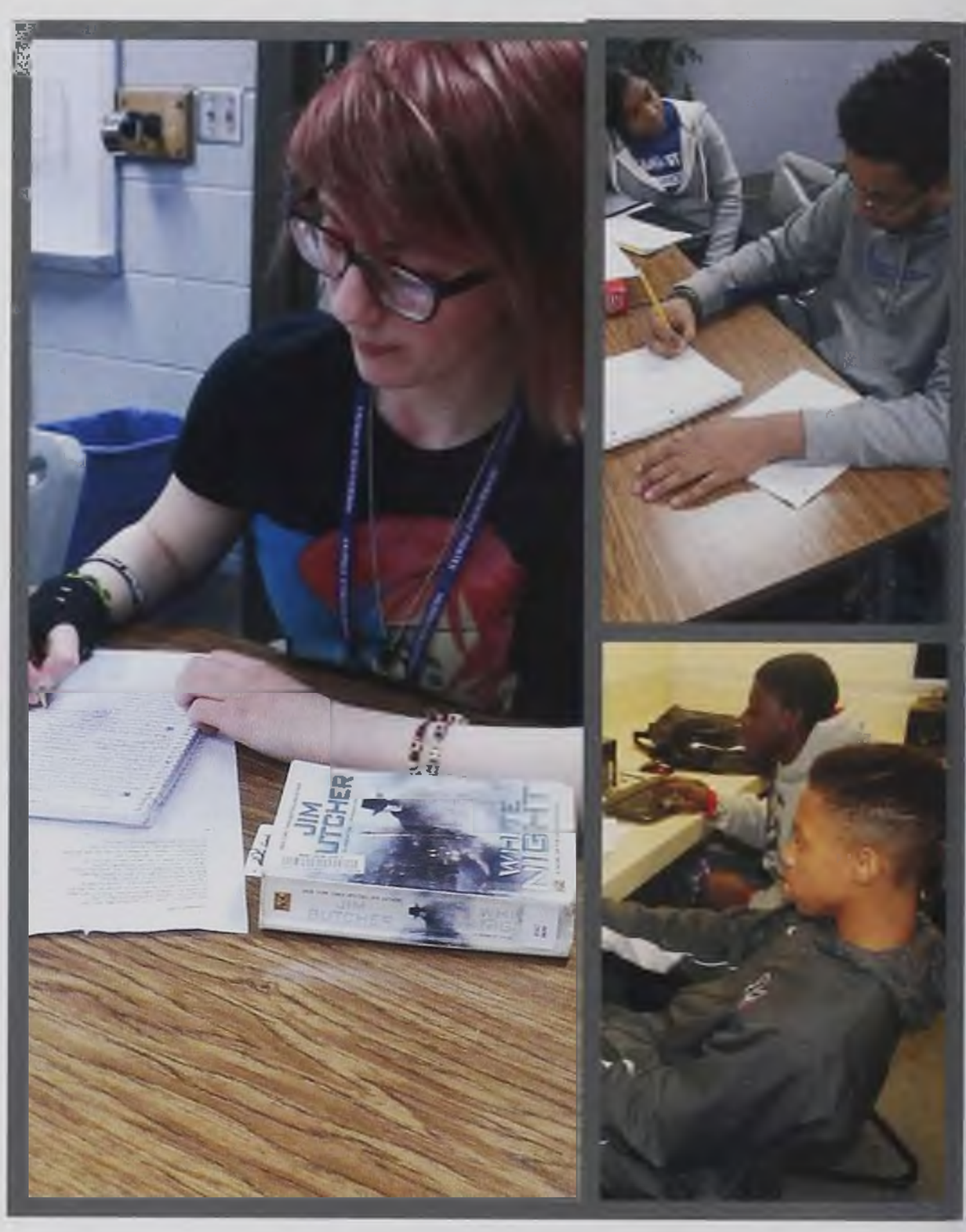
Teachers work to prepare students for the test.

"To prepare for the ECA, (Mrs. Debbie) Monix has been having us write a lot of papers. Right now we are writing a research paper. Next, we are going to finish writing a compare and contrast paper on two speeches," Sophomore Angelic Tillman said.

Students have a variety of options to pursue their interests in reading. Electives include Dramatic Literature, Classical Literature, Film Literature, Speech, Young Adult Novels, Creative Writing, Debate, Journalism, Newspaper and Yearbook.

Mr. Thomas Mackey, who teaches Dramatic Literature, said he strives to challenge his students.

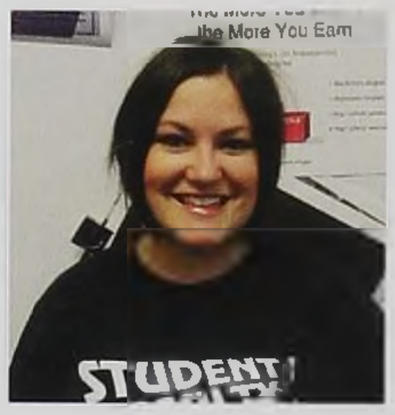
"They think it's going to be an easy A, but most of the things we read have a lexile of 1300 or higher," Mr. Mackey said. "The class consists of reading through scripts and looking at it through a literary stand point, the same way regular English classes do a novel."



Left: As she sits in class silently, Junior Wynonna Wagonblast works in her notebook, creating a chart to analyze a poem. "We develop better writing skills and it prepares us for college," Wagonblast said. Wagonblast said that her teacher helps every student prepare for the AP exam and for college. Top Right: Working on his class poetry assignment, Junior Payton Ash prepares a level one-two chart for his Advanced Placement Literature and Composition class with their teacher, Ms. Erin Mulloy-Flores. "We can work at our own pace and she doesn't time us," Ash said. Ash said he believes Mrs. Flores is a good teacher because she pushes him to do his best. Bottom Right: Sitting at the computers, Freshmen Dewayne Johnson and Kevin Fields work on their writing assignment for their composition class. "We learn how to write better essays to help us later on," Fields said.

"My favorite part of teaching is working with students individually and getting to know them."
Mrs. Jean Stanford

"I love working with kids and trying to make a difference."
Mr. Allen Mizimakoski



"Everything about English is relatable to life."
Ms. Samantha St. Aubin

World Languages

Flipping through flashcards to help prepare for a grammar test, Sophomores Samia Henly and Casllie Scott study together. "The test went okay, and I think I at least got a B on the test," Henly said. Henly said she is a B-average student who took Spanish because she wanted to learn more about the language. She is in her first year of Spanish, and she has grown to like it.

Learning a second language fosters understanding

Teachers in the World Language Department teach four languages –Spanish, French, German and Russian.

While the department does not offer AP classes, a student can study a language for four years. To graduate with an honors diploma, a student needs two years of two languages each or three years of one.

Each teacher helps the students learn to respect the different cultures.

"Our world is no longer by itself," Ms. Irene Spiro, one of the two French teachers, said. "We are now international as we learn about other people's cultures and we learn to better our own."

Teachers make sure students know the importance of knowing the different languages and understanding the different cultures.

"The way it sounds is musical and poetic. You understand the passion, the culture. Languages close the gap in the world and they benefit people in their future jobs," Spanish teacher Mrs. Monica DaCostaGomez said.

Students say they enjoy the language as well as respect it Some even have a favorite saying.

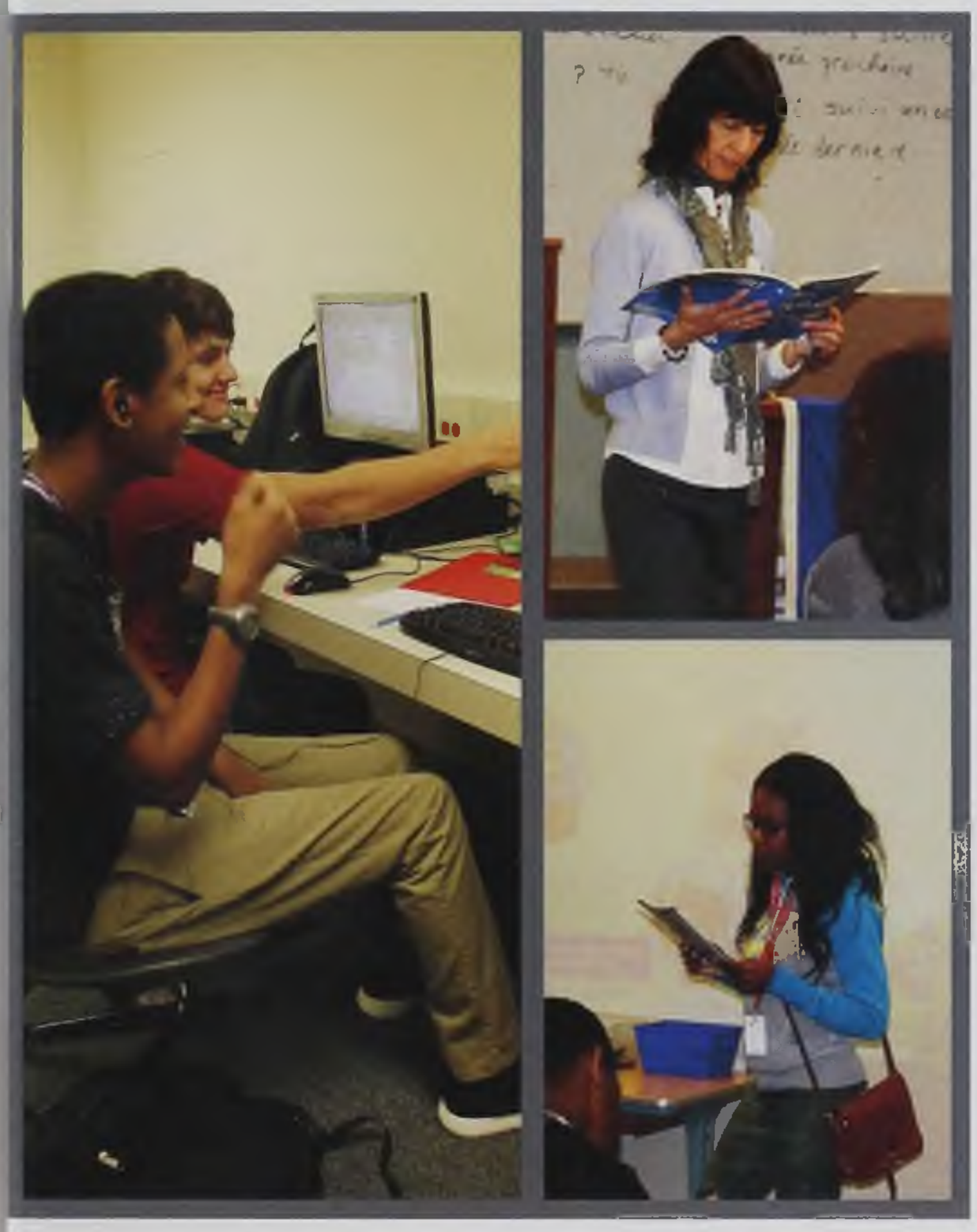
"My favorite saying from French class is, ' Il ya un serpent dans ma botte,'" Senior Niesha Jones said. This phrase translates, "There's a snake in my boot."

Each teacher offers students unique learning experiences.

"I teach three days in class and two days in the language lab. In there, we learn off a program I made myself called ' Quia.com' and I make my lessons based on what we are learning," German and Russian teacher Mr. Al Stoner said.

As students learn new words and phrases, they say they enjoy the outcome.

"I can talk to other people in Spanish," Sophomore Adam Serros said. "I like that I have the ability to do so."



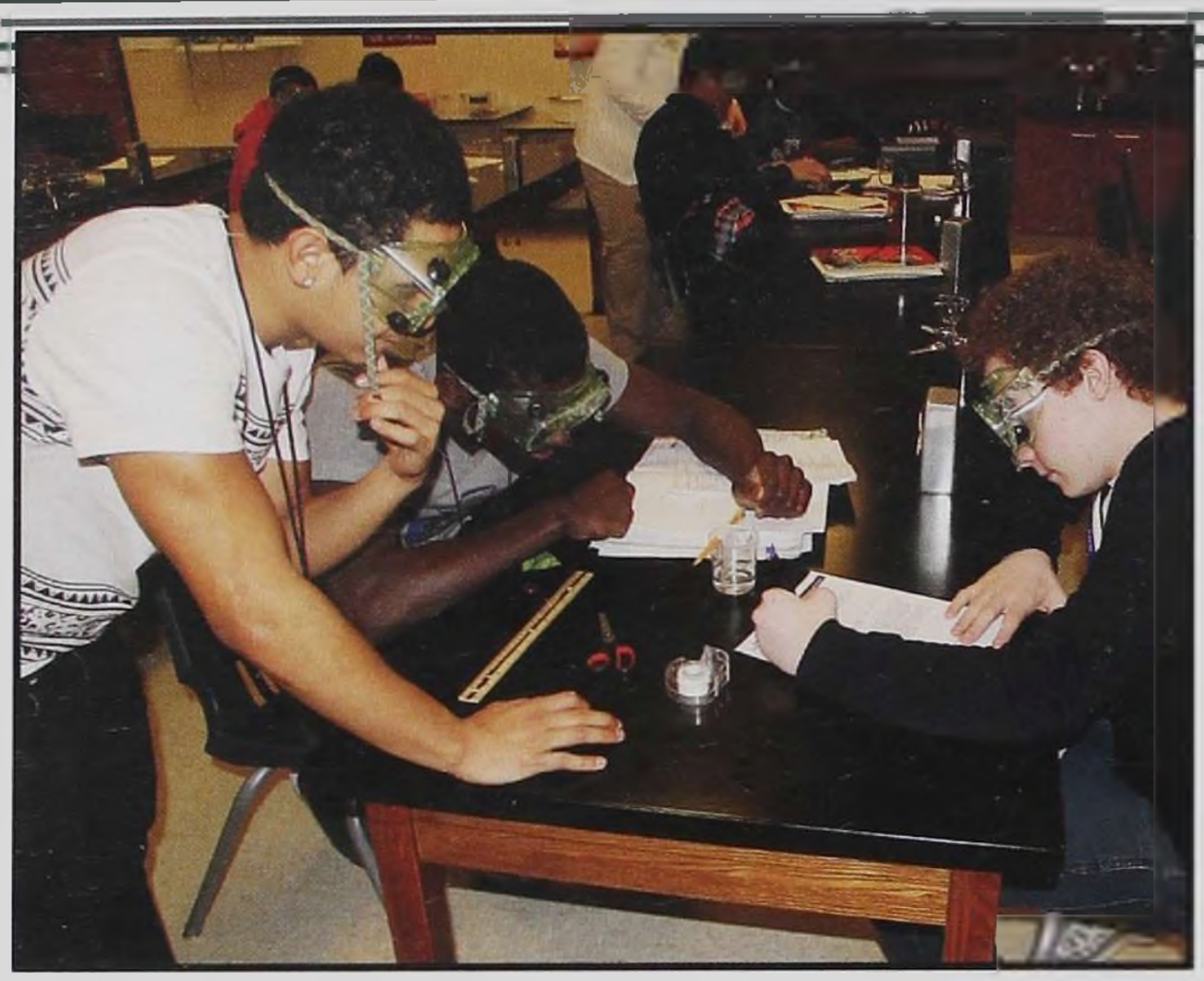
Left: Explaining to Junior Isaiah Broden, Senior Logan Glover helps him choose the correct Russian word. "I chose to take Russian because I knew it is not something most students would think of to take," Glover said. Glover has studied Russian since he was a sophomore. Top Right: To prepare her students, French teacher Ms. Irene Spiro reads the directions for the class homework. "I enjoy teaching French because I love the culture, the food, the way it sounds and traveling to French-speaking countries," Ms. Spiro said. She said she took French courses in middle school, high school and college. Bottom Right: As she stands in front of the class, Senior Asia Wilson explains an article in Spanish. "I am in Spanish III and I took the class because I knew it would help me in the future," Wilson said. Wilson said she took the class to fulfill a requirement for the Academic Honors diploma and to prepare for her career as a nurse.

"I enjoy working with students and helping them, not just with languages, but life lessons too."
Ms. Melissa Byerly

"I like it when the students don't need me anymore because it means they did learn something."
Mrs. Hannah Coronado

"I enjoy helping students and trying to get them enthused about German and Russian. What I learned, I really enjoyed, and I wanted to pass that on to my students."
Mr. Al Stoner

Science



Three students in Ms. Cheryl Austin's biology class become myth busters when they test to determine if green is the only pigment in green plants. Senior Darrin Funches and Sophomores Nathan Martin-Ellison and Casey Crane used filter paper and nail polish remover to observe any separation of plant pigments. "There are typically more than green pigments in plants, depending on the plant," biology teacher Ms. Cheryl Austin said.

Labs, experiments ensure student understanding

As students earn the required four credits in science, they become active participants in their education.

"Science is important. If you are looking to be in a medical, engineering or technological career, science really does prepare you for those courses," Department Chairman Mr. Joseph Atria said.

To help his students comprehend the lesson, Mr. Atria uses labs to help explain the concepts.

For example, with labs, the students gain a better understanding of nature

"Biology helps you know more about your surroundings and your body. If there is something wrong with your body and you go to your doctor, you actually know what the doctor is talking about," Mr. Atria said.

Mr. Atria said he challenges his students by trying to get them to think systematically and logically about how they approach different problems

Senior Isaiah Alleyne tries to approach problems by using resources, such as the Internet or a textbook, in order to figure out the problem on his own.

"I understand how cells are able to communicate naturally and how the human body uses elements every day at molecular levels," Alleyne said.

When students have trouble with understanding the current lesson being taught, they are able to go to their teacher so that the lesson can be explained more thoroughly.

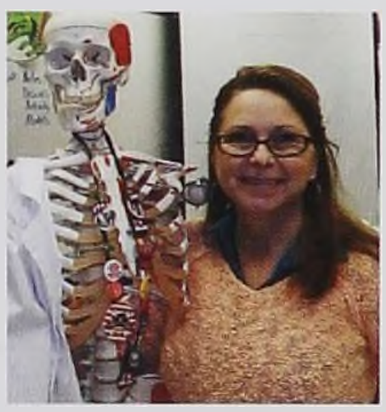
"It is a difficult subject to understand, but it's worth it because you will use science later on in life," Senior Tamara Julkes said.

The department offers both physical science classes, including chemistry and physics, and life science courses, such as zoology, botany and anatomy and physics.

Students can also take advanced placement courses in biology, chemistry and physics.

Left: Collecting the data, Junior Alona Martinez writes in the measurements recorded from a mass lab. Martinez was enrolled in science teacher Mrs. Melissa Valsi's Integrated Chemistry and Physics. "I prefer the physics part of the class because it is interesting. I think I am going to take a regular physics class next year," Martinez said. Top Right: While dropping e-coli bacteria into 250 mL of hydrogen chloride, Senior Ashley Christie works with her partner Senior Damian DiGangi to prepare bacterial cultures for transformation. Christie said it was nice working with DiGangi because he was helpful. Christie said she enjoys AP Biology. "The labs are fun and cool. I study and ask a lot of questions," Christie said. "If I'm confused I'm going to ask questions." Bottom Right: To investigate the process of cellular transportation using an osmosis lab, Freshman Alex Lopez measures 50 ml of water solution. "The lab was to investigate the process of cellular transport," biology teacher Mrs. Chyamiah Martin said. The students set up by placing three different items into two different solutions. "The carrot and potato both showed a decrease in mass because salt particles diffused into their cells dehydrating them. The raisins continued to diffuse more water, showing osmosis," Mrs. Martin said.

"I graduated from college with the hope of being a biology teacher. I ended up liking chemistry more than biology."
Mrs. Michelle Barker

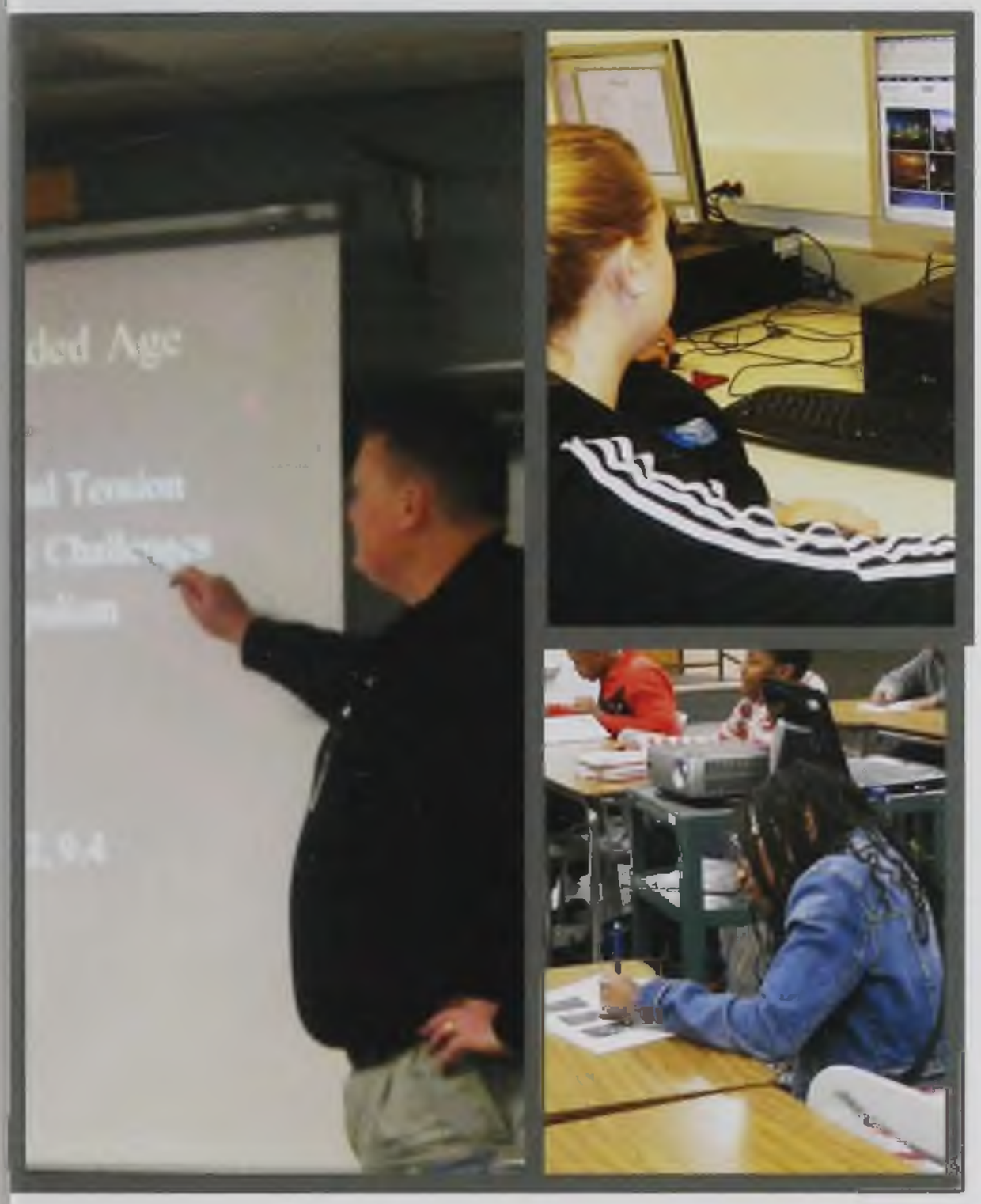


"The best part about my job is watching the students have fun learning and learning more myself. I also enjoy interacting with students and being creative."
Mrs. Patty Robison

"One of my favorite parts about teaching is when former students come back and tell you about their accomplishments."
Mr. Dave Hinkel

Social Studies

Working on a PowerPoint, Sophomore Courtney Chavez plans a 1960s prom. The American Culture class, taught by Mr. Jacob Stafford focuses on the cultural changes from the 1950s to the present. The project-based class includes independent research. "The class gives a better idea of the way people dress and how music affects society," Chavez said.



Left: With his US History I class, social studies teacher Mr. Robert Bedwell reviews the chapter's learning objectives. The class studied the Gilded Age, which started in the 1870s and ended near the turn of the century. The students learn about social and political disputes of the time. "The class is relevant to the students because it allows them to see how people overcome challenges," Mr. Bedwell said. Top Right: To plan a 1960s Prom, Senior Katy Guzek selects a venue in New York City. "The projects are very detailed and we do one at the end of each chapter along with a class discussion," Guzek said. She designed all facets of the evening, everything from the music playlist to the look of the ticket. Bottom Right: As she listens to the lecture and takes detailed notes in her interactive notebook, Sophomore Kayla Sims learns about the Gilded Age. "The class is relevant because it helps you to learn more about the past," Sims said. Students complete posters and projects that make the class challenging.

Music, skits, projects make social studies come alive

Teachers in the Social Studies Department use a variety of methods to make history, sociology and political science intriguing.

Lectures take a back seat to watching videos, listening to music, creating note cards and presenting class skits.

US History and Government teacher Mr. Dan Schoon uses the interactive notebook as a note-taking strategy. On the right side of the notebook, students record the teacher's lesson for the day. On the left side, students interpret what they have learned from the lecture. The left side often includes a summary, a picture, a chart or any hands-on application of the right side.

"The benefit of learning social studies is learning how the world is today," Mr. Schoon said. "Students should learn and know about the past events."

Department-wide, the emphasis for students is to learn the names of the individuals who helped shape history, as well as a focus on thinking skills as prescribed by the Common Core standards.

History teacher and department chairman Mr. Anthony Hofer said the Common Core standards emphasize student thinking skills rather than rote memorization of specific events.

Mr. Hofer said he uses many techniques for teaching his students, including the interactive notebook, worksheets, lectures, class skits, videos, review games and note cards.

"I've always liked social studies," Mr. Hofer said. "It's always been easy for me. It made sense."

The general diploma requires students to earn five credits in social studies, including history, geography, government and economics. The Core 40 diploma requires seven. Electives include geography, psychology and sociology.

US History student Junior Nicole Peterson has been taking the class for a year.

"As long as you listen in class," Peterson said, "you should pass the test and the biggest part in the class is the notebook and vocabulary."

"In the American Culture class, we have a lot of class discussions. We start in the 1950s, then talk about a different thing every day."
Mr. Jake Stafford

"I try to make it different every day. We do as much hands-on work as possible and have a lot of class discussions in psychology."
Mrs. Amber Baron

"I try to be upbeat and entertaining. Of course, we play the most famous review game in all of Merrillville High School, Schoon-O-Pardy."
Mr. Daniel Schoon

Math

In Advanced Placement Calculus, Seniors Branden Hull and Amanda Jackson work on their homework. "I took this class because it gives me honors credits and I needed this class for Academic Honors," Jackson said. She said she enjoys Mrs. Nancy Draper as her teacher. "She explains well and goes over everything," Jackson said.

From algebra to calculus, numbers are relevant

Every day, math teachers try new strategies to make math more relevant to students in their everyday life.

Mrs. Gail Nicolini, who has been teaching for 29 years, said knowing math can mean the difference between getting a good job or being passed over.

"There are jobs, but people don't get them because they lack math skills. We need to get them back to learning basic math skills," Mrs. Nicolini said.

Mrs. Nicolini said she knew she was going to be a math teacher since the second grade. She teaches regular and Honors Pre-Calculus. She also teaches Algebra II.

One of her students this year, Junior Yiqi Duan, said Mrs. Nicolini is very helpful.

"Mrs. Nicolini sacrifices her time to help those who need help and have questions," Duan said. "She is very charismatic and cares about her students. You can tell she likes her job."

The Math Department chairman, Mrs. Nancy Draper, has been teaching since she graduated from college in 1973. Mrs. Draper said she believes the higher levels of math are important.

"It is hard to make math relevant. The biggest challenge is the lower levels. They help you get prepared for the higher level math classes, which are more relevant. They are more about making students recognize the important for their future success," Mrs. Draper said.

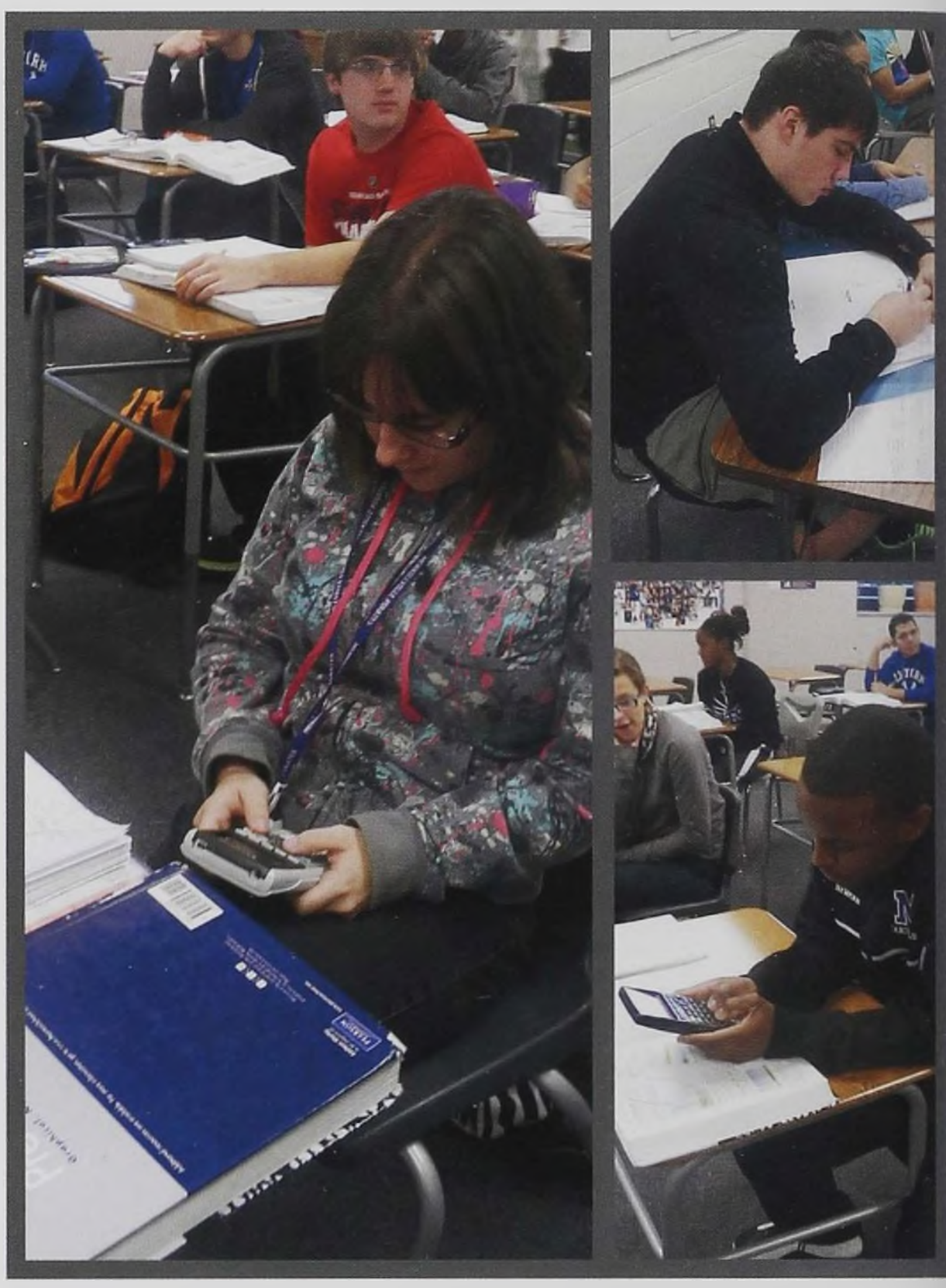
Mrs. Draper started to teach because of her love for kids. She also said teaching math was worthwhile because math is important in everyone's life.

"I like math's predictability. The rules always work and the process is always the same. The hardest thing is to get students engaged," Mrs. Draper said.

The Math Department offers a variety of classes, including Advanced Placement Calculus. Students take Algebra I and II, Pre-Calculus, Geometry, Investigative Geometry, Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry, Calculus and Trigonometry, Probability and Statistics, and Discrete Math.

In addition to the curriculum, Mrs. Draper said she loves to incorporate a few higher-level thinking questions.

"I really like for students to be actively engaged," Mrs. Draper said.



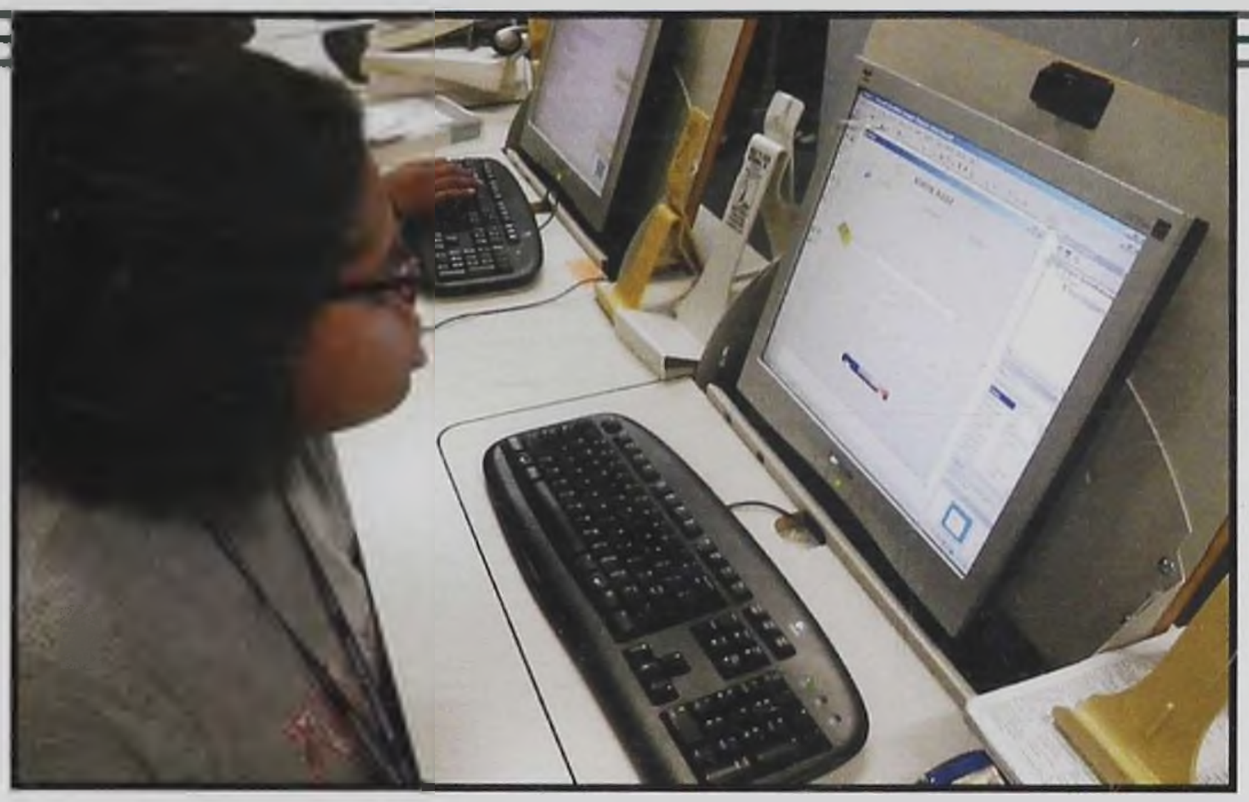
Left: "Study." That's what Junior Sarah Bradash said she does to overcome the challenges in Honors Pre-Calculus. Bradash is working toward an Academic Honors Diploma, and she needs four years of math to qualify. She said that Mrs. Gail Nicolini is helpful. "If you are in trouble or have a problem in or outside of class, she is always there to help. I hold her in high regard," Bradash said. Top Right: In class, Junior Jonathan Streck takes notes. "My favorite part about Algebra II is Mr. (Jeff) Eaton's teaching methods," Streck said. "I like the way he breaks the work down." Streck said he likes the class because it helps him prepare for college. Bottom Right: In Mrs. Gail Nicolini's Honors Pre-Calculus class, Junior Christopher Newman uses his calculator to solve problems. "The challenge I have is doing my homework," Newman said. "I like this class because math has always come easy to me," Newman said.

"I am always trying to relate the problems to real life applications, like money and problem solving."
Mr. Joseph Hussey

"I like math because there is always a right answer. Math helps you develop thinking skills."
Mrs. Elizabeth Gillespie

"Learning math is so important. Math helps you look at what you are doing and apply it to life."
Mr. Jeremy Bilka

Business



Before finishing her work for the day, Sophomore Ariella Broom creates a name for her design. "My goal is to work with computer engineering. I would love to make a job of it," Broom said. Broom said she started working with computers at a young age and has always loved it.

Teaching consumer savvy and global economics

Courses that fall under the Business Department are commonly mistaken for simple computer classes. The department teaches the classes in the computer labs in order to provide students with the latest software possible and expose them to business and personal software platforms.

But these classes are more than just typing classes. Accounting, Business Law and Ethics, Advanced Business Management and Digital Citizenship are offered each year.

Accounting introduces the language of business and emphasizes accounting principles as they relate to both manual and automated financial systems.
Business Law and Ethics gives the students an overview of the legal system in the business setting. They cover the judicial system and contract, personal, employment and property law.

Digital Citizenship develops the students' knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, presentation and communications software.

"In computer programming, we work on making computer programs and we also work on coding. Coding is a bit tedious, but Mr. (Andrew) Niksich helps us through coding and helps us understand why coding is significant," Senior Luke Martinez said.

For one program, students use the codes and formulas to create a calculator on the computer.

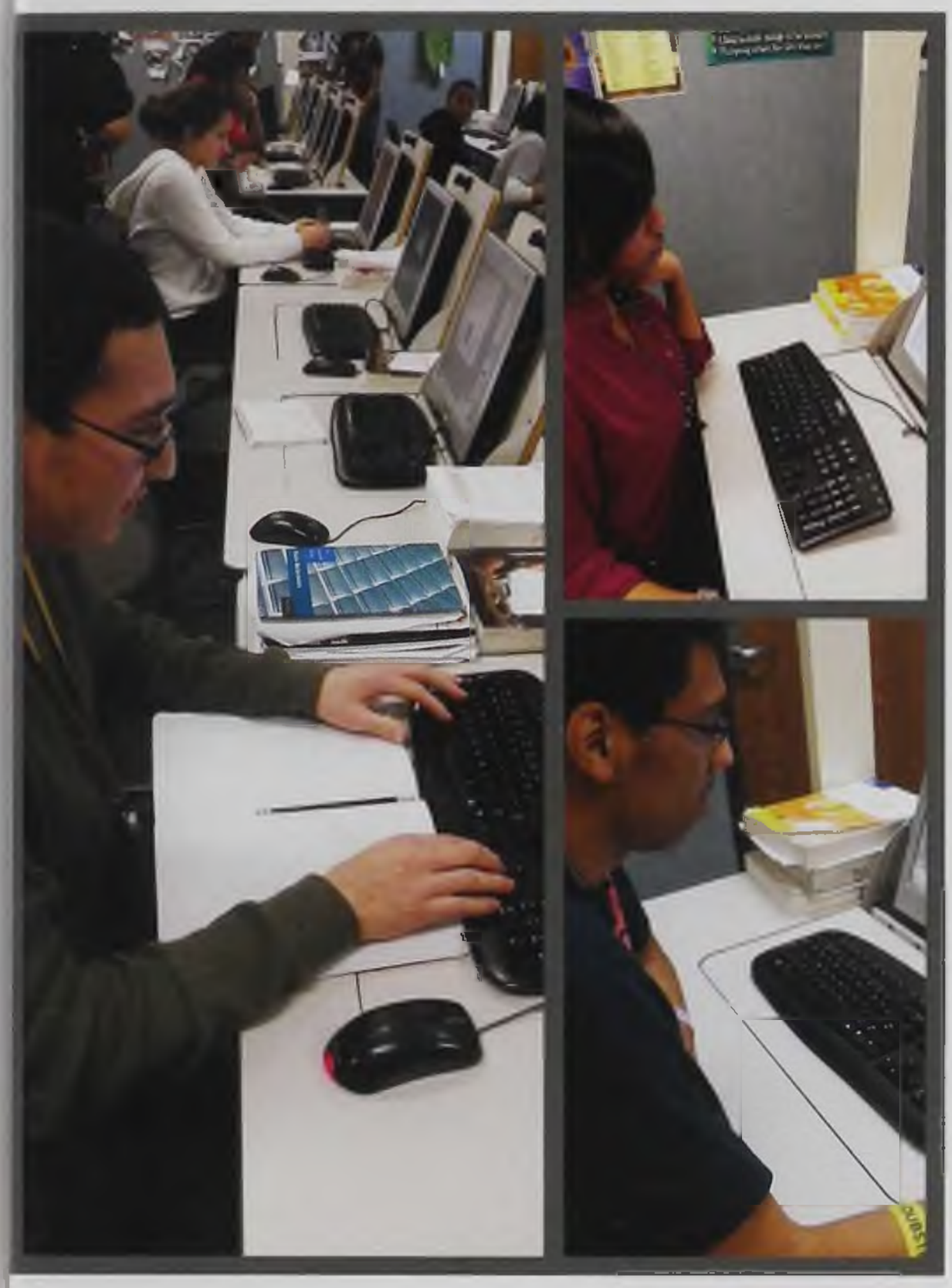
"Coding may seem difficult, but it is very easy when Mr. Niksich teaches us about it," Junior Julian Andrews said.

Students such as Andrews take the class in order to prepare themselves for careers.

"I plan on trying to draw with computers in a digital art job. I like this class because I want to work in a computer workplace and this class prepares me for it," Andrews said.

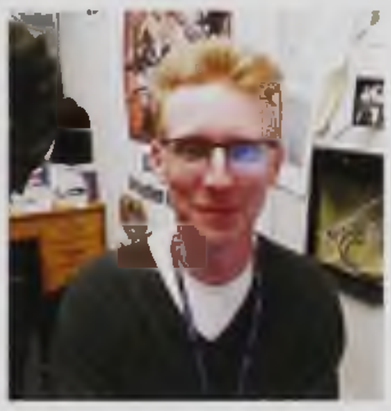
Business classes can help prepare students who plan on working with digital art, programming computers or computer engineering.

"The Business Department brings a real life experience to the classroom," business teacher Mrs. Sharon Row said. "We've been there, and done that and our goal is to give our students the edge over their competition. We've beaten the competition out there and had our time to shine. Now we want our students to feel that reward and success."



Left: At the keyboard in a business class, Senior Luke Martinez calculates the codes for a program online. "Mr. (Andrew) Niksich helps you through some of the tedious tasks we have," Martinez said. In web design, Martinez programs web pages and codes in information. Top Right: To complete her web page for her class, Senior Jasmine Taylor works on a segment on school rules. "My main goal in taking a web design class was to learn how to make a web page," Taylor said. Taylor wanted to work with computers and take a course to learn something new. Bottom Right: With his eyes glued to the screen, Junior Julian Andrews enters data into the computer. "I plan to possibly draw with computers and am interested in a future with digital art," Andrews said. Andrews said he believes that coding is simple because Mr. Andrew Niksich taught it well.

"My first career was business and programming. It just made sense to make a career in the Business Department as a teacher."
Mrs. Rae Lopez



"I like that we can do real world projects. It makes the classes more interesting."
Mr. Andrew Niksich

"We don't teach frivolously. Each of us brings unique experience and knowledge to the table."
Mrs. Sharon Row

Industrial Technology

In Graphic Arts Production class, Senior Ronald Mayersky prepares to clean the ink out of the screen. "Before the class, I didn't know how to use the printing press or make tee-shirts, but I did accomplish learning that," Mayersky said.

Technical skills put students one step ahead

With combined teaching experience of 160 years, six Industrial Arts instructors teach practical consumer knowledge and home maintenance tips, as well as mechanical skills.

Students take classes in metals and machinery, power mechanics and welding, electricity and electronics, CISCO networking, drafting and woods.

In Computer Aided Design I and II, engineering and drafting classes, students learn real-world skills.

"Students get as much real world designing as possible," CAD, engineering and drafting teacher Mr. Steven Prather said. "This class (CAD) shows students how close other classes relate to design, and they also learn how to work together."

Lab or shop classes are not designed to turn out tradesmen, but try to acquaint students with the various occupations requiring manual skills.

Building Trades provides students an opportunity to explore 20 areas of pre-apprenticeship training for those that are considering construction as a career.

"The class (Building Trades) is hands on, and it helps me in the profession I would like to pursue" Senior James Wright said.

Building Trades and Graphic Arts, begin with book learning, but transition to hands-on work.

"I started teaching in 1970 and I enjoy it," Graphic Arts Production teacher Mr. Dave Teeter said "I like seeing the satisfaction on students' faces after completing a project they thought couldn't be done."

In Mr. Teeter's classes, students screen tee-shirts, embroider shirts and coats worn by the athletes and club members They also print banners and posters seen around the school. In Mr. Rick Garner's woods classes, students build bean toss games. In Mr. Rick Hurey's electronics class, students are introduced to elementary electrical concepts.

All classes are electives and open to grades 9 through 12. Teaching is individualized to accommodate the different skills students bring to the class.

Left: Hands on and ready, Senior Robert Riley reassembles the brake pads on the truck he brought in. "You gain knowledge of automobiles in this class. Every day you learn something new," Riley said. Students in Mr. James Johnston's Power Mechanics class often work on teachers' cars. Top Right: With eyes focused on completing his task, Senior Logan Glover sands the edges of his clock face. "I like that we get to work with our hands. This class is easy and I like the teacher. It just comes naturally to me," Glover said. Bottom Right: To finish his project, Junior Ernest Lingo drills a hole in the front face of his clock. "Almost everything I make in here is my work. This opened up another path I could take for a career," Lingo said.

"I wanted to teach auto shop because my father was a school teacher and I wanted to follow in his footsteps."
Mr. James Johnston

"If you go into a store and look at a canned good that has no printed label on it, how would you know what's inside? Without graphic arts, you would never know."
Mr. David Teeter

"The best thing about this class is helping students learn how to do things that may help them later in life."
Mr. Rick Garner

Family and Consumer Sciences

In Advanced Nutrition and Wellness class, Family and Consumer Science Department chairman Ms. Carol Von Behren demonstrates how to properly pipe icing onto a cake. Ms. Von Behren teaches this class for students who have an interest in baking.

eft: Carefully placing her cheddar biscuits in the oven, Sophomore Kendra Skinner finishes her ooking project for the week. "It's such a fun class. I get to cook instead of doing work," she aid. Top Right: To prepare garlic cheddar biscuits, Freshman Michae Smith cuts shortening into our. "I like to cook. I'm thinking about when I get older becoming a chef," Smith said. Bottom ight: While participating in an independent study for Advanced Cake Decorating class, Junior Danielle Deleon spoons chocolate cupcake batter into baking cups. "I want to make a career ut of it. I want to design wedding cakes," said Deleon. Deleon said she plans to go to culinary chool after graduation.

Getting ready for the world with real-life experiences

Whether the students in the Family and Consumer Science classes learn to take care of children or to hold a piping bag in Cake Decorating class, they are discovering ways to help themselves in their future endeavors.

The teachers in this department do their best to make the classes as rigorous and relevant to their everyday lives as they can. In the FACS department classes, students get to experience the real life challenges that people face.

"We make the classes relevant by constantly changing and updating our courses because life constantly is changing and updating to bigger and better things," FACS teacher Ms. Carol Von Behren said.

The students engage in activities that force them to focus and use technology in all aspects of the classroom setting. All 15 classes in the FACS department include technology in their classroom objectives.

"Technology is shown through use of computer labs and bringing this technique throughout PowerPoints to teach lessons," Ms. Von Behren said.

Many students take the FACS classes to learn life skills for their futures or to lighten up their schedules with a fun class they know they will enjoy.

"I wanted to be able to provide for myself in the future and the cooking classes helped me do that," Senior Calvin Graham said.

While many students know only about the cooking classes, students also have many opportunities to learn about how children can develop and grow into young adults.

"I took Early Childhood Development because I like kids, and being able to teach the little kids in the daycare was an amazing experience," Senior Rachel Harper said.

Without any new classes added to the curriculum, FACS teachers' main objective is to help promote the classes that students may not know as much about, such as Human Development which is a sex education class that Mrs. Pat Smith teaches.

Within the next few years, the FACS teachers want to add a new class to their unit.

"Next year we want to add an education profession class which would aim more toward the elementary level instead of the younger pre-school level students," Ms. Von Behren said

"Cooking is something I love, and I always wanted to be a teacher. I definitely enjoy what I am doing."
Ms. Sara Stallings

"I was influenced by my high school sewing teacher. I feel I have something to share, and I want to share it with young people."
Mrs. Shelley Ray

"I wanted to help change the world. Students need more role models."
Ms. Patti Tubbs

PE Physical Education

During an intense game of ultimate Frisbee, Freshman Elisha Robins looks for someone in the open to pass to. "I enjoy going to third period every day. I get in a good workout," Robins said. Robins said he dresses every day to make sure he earns a good grade.

Classes teach fitness, encourage staying in shape

To teach students how to get in shape and stay healthy, Physical Education classes engage them in different activities such as Advanced Fitness, Health, Physical Education and Swimming.

"I want to make sure the students know what it takes for a healthy life," Physical Education teacher Mr. Ben Daniel said.

The varied curriculum offered by the Physical Education Department gives students the opportunity to take an activities class, swimming class and an advanced fitness class.

"I always love physical education and generally it is good for the kids," Mr. Daniel said.

"I love swimming the most. You work out every part of your body with less stress and you are less tired as you do it," Junior Faith Bonner said.

In Advanced Fitness class, students workout in the free weight room, a room similar to a fitness gym for the students and teachers in school. Students say the instructor, Ms. Amy Govert, teaches them the skills they need to become fit.

"I like her. She is smart and is determined to get us in the right direction," Bonner said.

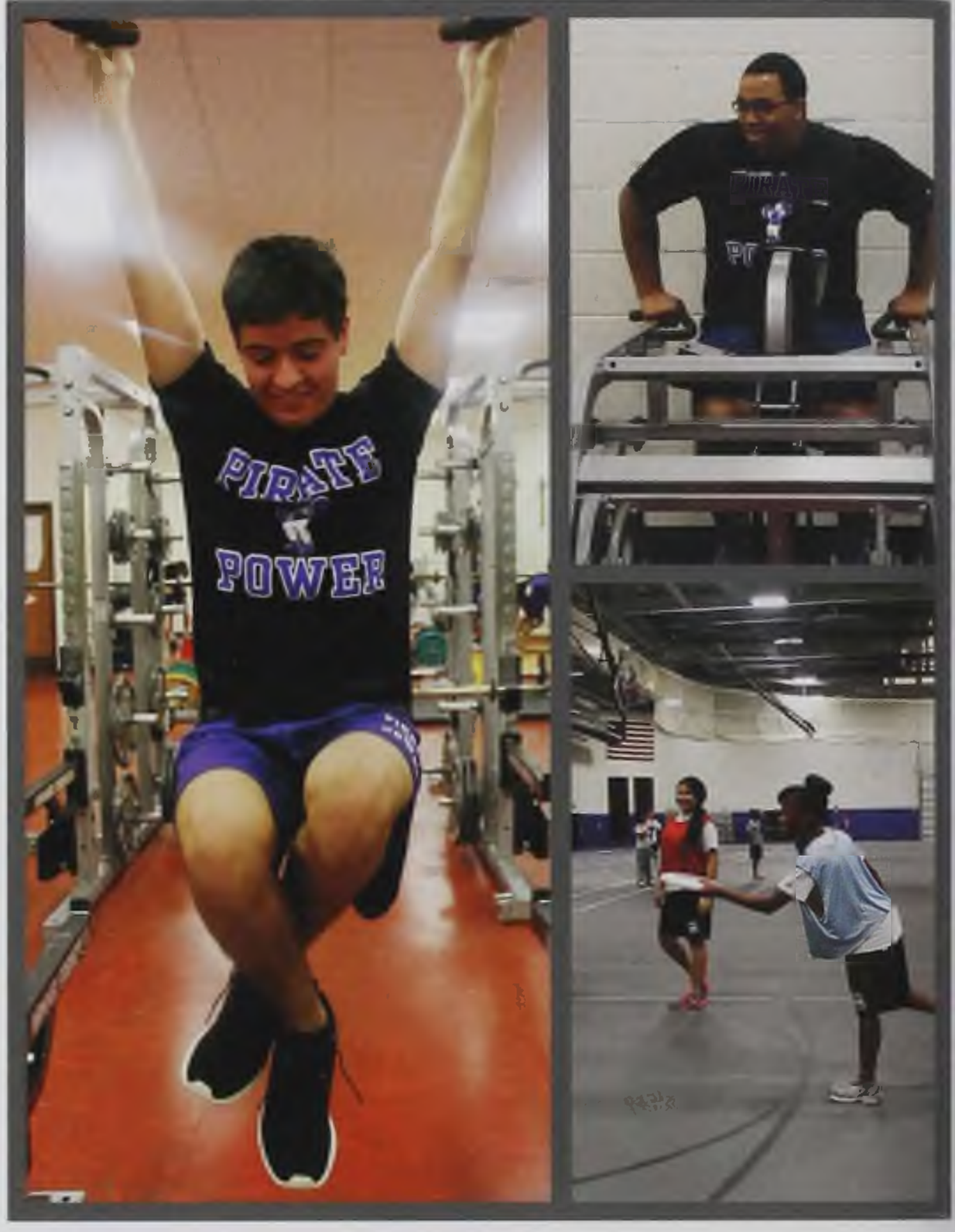
As students work in the free weight room and run in the fieldhouse, Ms Govert stands by students and motivates them to not give up and pushes them to their full extent.

"I like lifting the weights because they challenge me," Bonner said, "and Ms. Govert helps me with my challenge."

Students must have a 3.0 grade point average, have taken Anatomy & Physiology and have interests in a similar field to take the Physical Therapy class

"Physical Therapy is rehabilitation to someone that is injured," Ms. Susan Hayes said. Ms. Hayes teaches the class and students use a book that goes into the movements of the body to rehabilitation. The students in the class will become trainers athletic and help athletes in the school with their physical therapy.

"They save time by having student trainers," Ms. Hayes said. "It helps us perform our job more efficiently."



Left: Enrolled in Advanced Fitness for the fourth time, Senior Ryan Soto pushes toward his last rep of abs workout. "It's a good stress reliever, dealing with my other classes," Soto said. Soto said he stays motivated every day in class and works hard. Top Right: While focusing on achieving his maximum weight, Senior Ashton Washington works on triceps push downs. "Being in Advanced Fitness helps me stay in shape and accomplish a good workout," Washington said. Bottom Right: To help her team win in the Frisbee game, Freshman Ashley Walton passes to her teammate. "I make sure to dress every day and participate in the gym activities," Walton said.

"I enjoy teaching my students and giving them a good physical workout."
Mr. Brian Zdych

"Knowing that the kids are getting in a good workout and pushing themselves gives me a good feeling."
Ms. Veronica Siwy

"I get a great feeling knowing the kids are accomplishing their workouts."
Mr. Kyle Prow

Freshman Academy

Focusing on reading and writing helps students build basic skills

The Merrillville Community School believes in the statement, "No child left behind." This is why there is a program set in place to help 9th graders that come into the high school who need a little extra help in their classes.

The Freshman Academy prepares these students to advance through high school and life successfully.

"Freshman Academy is designed for students that need a little extra help in their core academic classes like English, Math, and Science," Freshman Academy teacher Mrs. Kari Regan said.

The same curriculum is followed in Freshman Academy as in the rest of the 9th grade classes. One of the main focuses in a Freshman Academy English class is to increase lexile scores and improve reading and writing skills. They strive to be able to read at grade level so that they will be able to be with the rest of their class by the time they get to 10th grade.

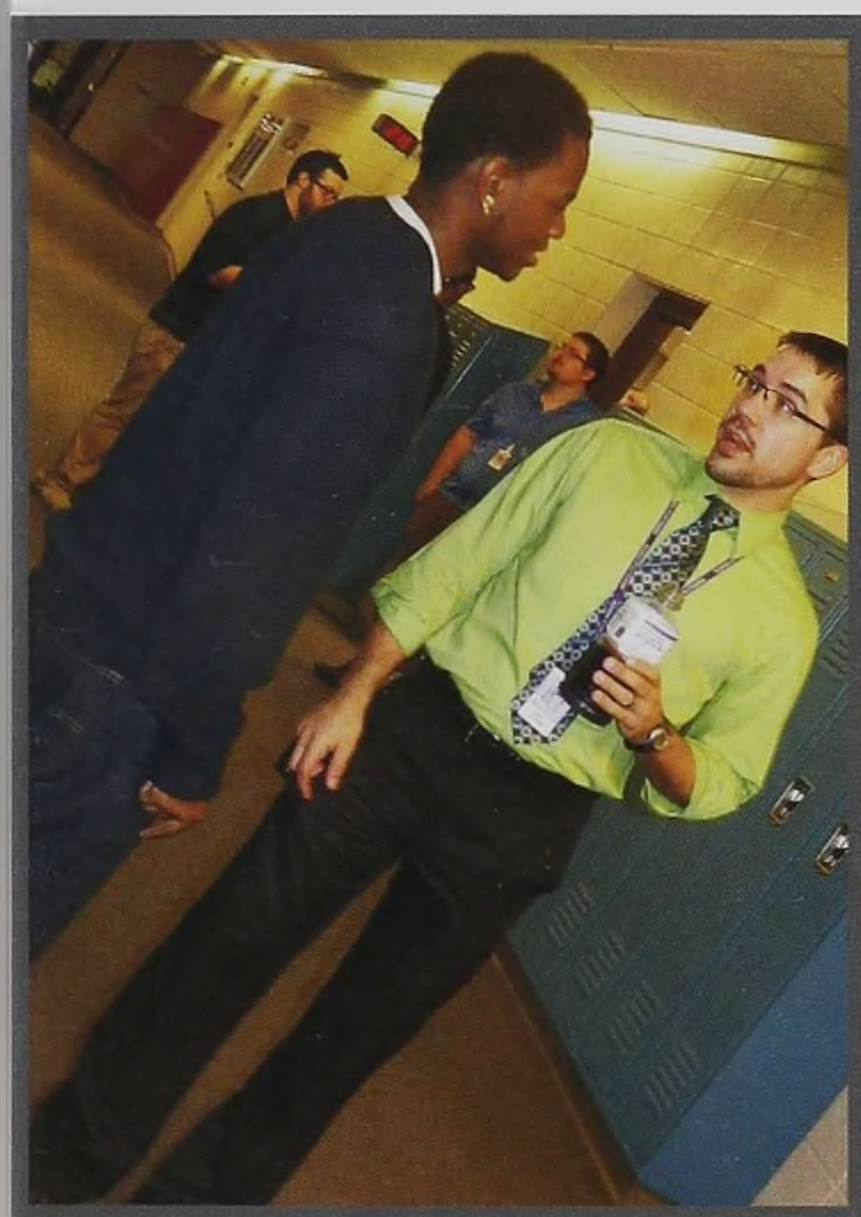
"I love that the classes are 90 minutes and we keep the same students all year long. We are able to build good relationships with the students," Mrs. Regan said.

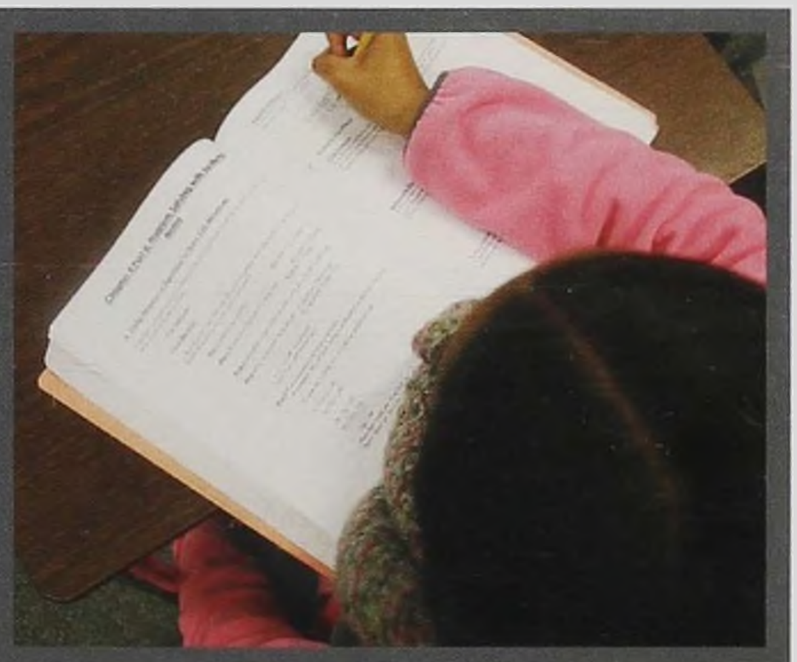
The teachers said they do all they can to make the students learning experience easier and more interesting. They adjust their teaching methods to meet to the needs of the students.

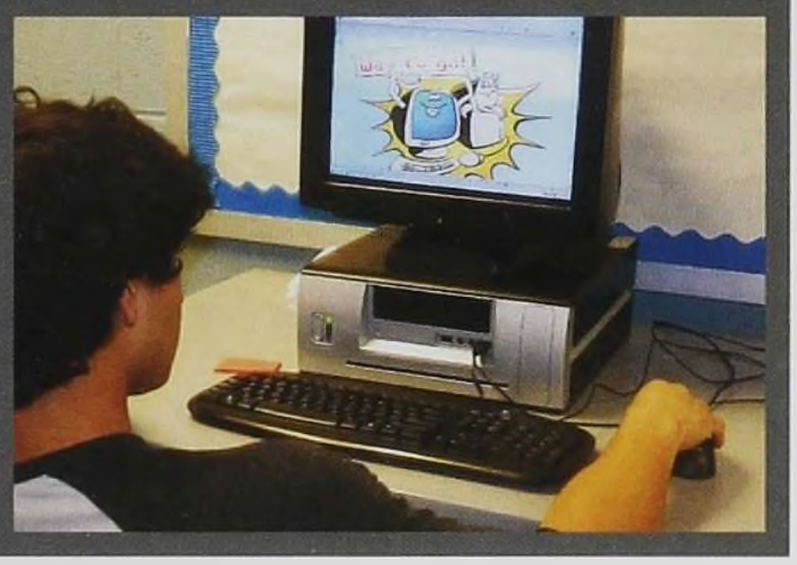
"Every year is different. Every group of kids is different. They are challenging but also fun," Freshman Academy teacher Mr. Jason Hostetler said.

In Freshman Academy, the students have four regular classes with one elective.

Bottom left: In a conversation with Merrillville Alterative Program Director Mr. Dan Schoon, Senior Kenneth Parkham Jr. discovers he has passed his English class, and he asks Mr. Schoon to load another class onto his computer. Parkham said he prefers day school, but added, "My experience in night school went well. I completed a lot of classes." Like many students in MAP, Parkham was able to recover credits to graduate on time. Mr. Schoon said almost 40 percent of the students in MAP are enrolled for credit recovery. "It's a long day," Mr. Schoon said, "but it allows a student to make up for past errors.







Top Right: Freshman Airyanna Bailey takes notes in math teacher Ms. Julie Fregien's class. Students learn lessons in problem-solving using equations. "Ms. Fregien explains a lot," Bailey said. She said she struggles with math because it "has too many numbers." "Freshman Academy helps me because I am behind in math and they help me get back to where I need to be," Bailey said. Bottom Right: The computer program congratulates Senior Raymond Escamilla for passing his foreign term lesson for English 12. Escamilla is enrolled in the Merrillville Alternative Program to recover credits. "My overall look on night school is you really have to focus to pass the class," Escamilla said. Although Escamilla is enrolled in MAP, he prefers to go to school during the day.

"I feel MAP benefits students who need an extra push. It helps them without punishment. It helps build relationships."
Mr. Elijah Israel

"I love helping them, showing them that they can succeed."
Ms. Julie Fregien

Alternative Program

Success is the only option here

After the bell rings at 2:48 p.m., not all students hit the parking lot or board the golden greyhound.

After school, students who need extra help from teachers participate in the Merrillville Alternative Program. MAP offers credit recovery to interested seniors with the plan to graduate early. Others enroll for behavior modification. Teachers in MAP work to modify the behavior of students who struggle in day school.

"Currently I am enrolled in English 11 and a history course," Senior Roy'l Oliver said. "My instructor, Mr. Seligman helps me."

Core diploma classes in English, mathematics, social studies and sciences are offered via computer.

Mr. Dan Schoon has been directly affiliated with the MAP program for eight years. He has spent the last five years as the MAP director.

"One of the goals of MAP is for students and teachers to build long lasting relationships," Mr. Schoon said.

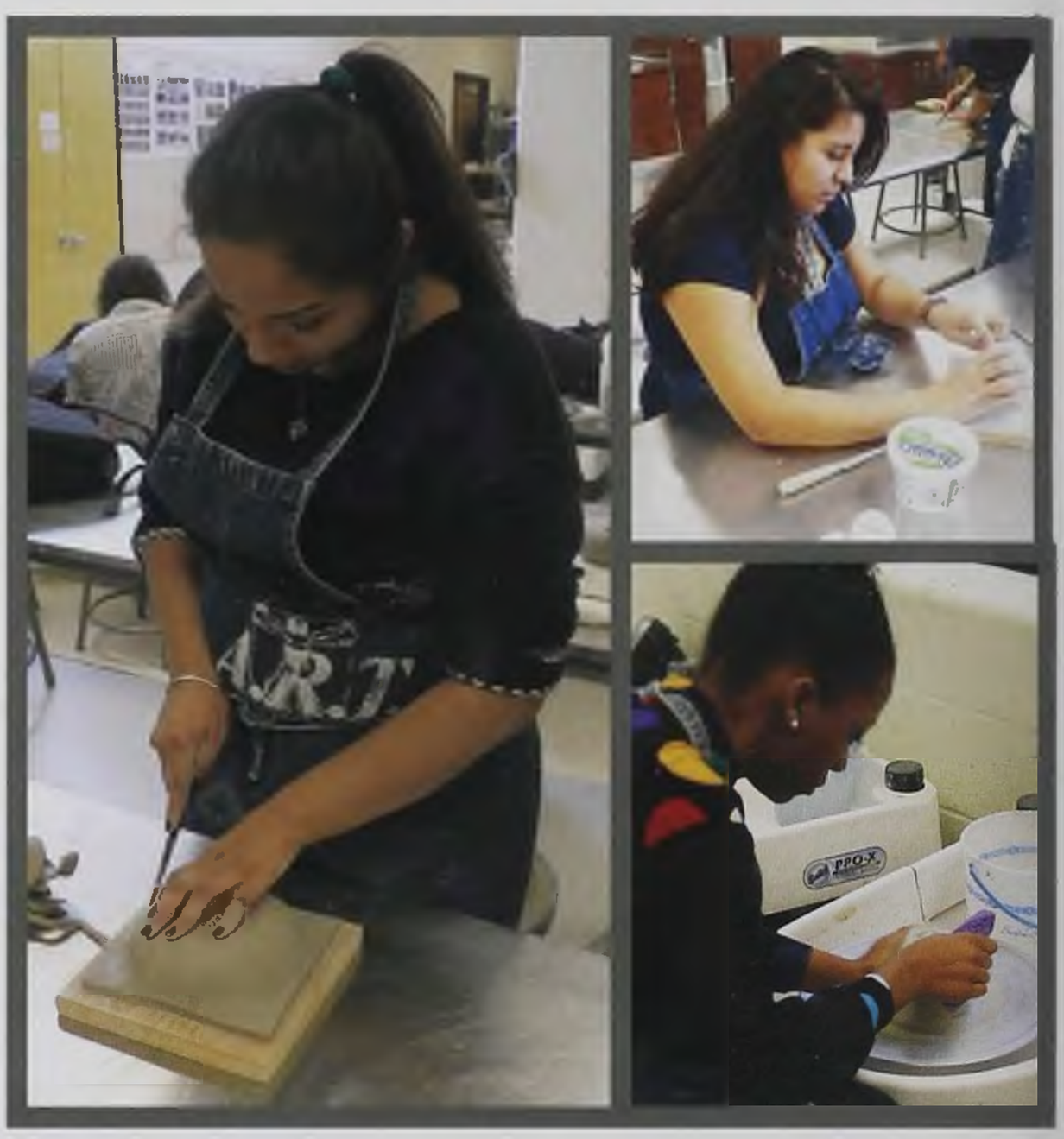
With the sole responsibility of helping their students academically and socially, MAP faculty spends each afternoon from three until six p.m. with the students. They live the motto, "Success is the only option."

Among them is Mr. Michael Knocke.

"The most rewarding part of MAP is when former students come back and tell me how well they are doing in day school," Mr. Knocke said.

In Introduction to 2D Art, Junior Dae'Ja Pinkins draws a still life of yarn. "Art helps me in everyday life because it makes me think of all the little things," Pinkins said, "I love to express myself when I draw. I also put a lot of detail into my work." Pinkins said that art makes her think.

Art



Left: Before the clay dries, Junior Jagjot Kaur trims the edges of her bowl. "I like making different things and seeing the aspects of the way things are made," Kaur said. Kaur said she enrolled in ceramics because of its appeal to fun, calming effects and anti-stressful quality. "The hardest thing is doing the wheel because you have to keep your arm steady," Kaur said. Top Right: While cleaning her bowl, Senior Ana Hernandez checks her work twice. "I like this class because it gives me something creative to do in the middle of the day," Hernandez said. She said she took the class because her sister took it, which enhanced its appeal. "To show my individuality through my detailing style," Hernandez said, "The hardest part is deadlines and getting my projects done on time." Hernandez also uses everything she makes. Bottom Right: On the wheel, Senior Brandi Sims works on her project. "I joined because I get to work with my hands," Sims said. Sims said she struggled in the class. "Learning different techniques are hard, but I try again," Sims said.

Students seek artistic expression

The art teachers agree that art is more than pictures and sculptures. Art is the expression of the artist's feelings he or she wants the world to know.

Classes allow students to express themselves. Two-Dimensional Art, Art History, Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Sculpture, Printmaking and Commercial Art are offered.

"Art is life. It's a communication between artist and their viewers," Art Department Chairman Mr. Terry Pratt said.

Art teaches people life is not perfect and to look at the bright side of things. Art teacher Mrs. Sarah Kennedy wants her students to know errors are not bad.

"I don't want my students to be afraid to make mistakes. You can learn from mistakes," Mrs. Kennedy said. "Mistakes can be masterpieces."

For most students, art is a way to escape their reality and pass time.

"Art is my strongest ability," Junior Antonia Stewart said. "Anything that has to do with art comes easy to me."

Art teachers say they try to make art relevant to their students' everyday lives.

Mrs. Kennedy said her art classes teach students how to clean up after themselves and think outside the box.

Mr. Pratt said he teaches his students how to solve problems and think on higher levels.

"Art teaches students how to think and see the world," Mr. Pratt said. "Artists see relationships between different things."

In Mrs. Janet Anderson's photography classes, students learn how to operate a 35mm camera, process film and print photographs. In Photography 2, they complete a digital portfolio.

"Art is about communication: your emotions, your concerns, about society and philosophy. It is anything you want to say to the viewers."
Mr. Terry Pratt

"I like art because art changes. It is an adventure and there is no rule."
Mrs. Janet Anderson

"Art is awesome. It is a passion for me because I love to see someone take raw materials and make something."
Mrs. Sarah Kennedy

Exceptional Learners

As part of a leisure reading activity, Senior Shauntaliane Stewart navigates through a special computer program that assists students with vocabulary words. Stewart had to choose the correct definition from the choices presented on screen.

Left: After the group picks up the food at the Meals on Wheels center in Merrillville, Junior D'artagnan Taylor delivers the meal to a home-bound adult. Each Tuesday, students deliver meals to more than 20 homes in the community. Top Right: During a field trip to the Aldi store, Senior Benjamin Hulsey picks out a snack he would like to purchase. Every six weeks, students shop using their personal shopping list. "The goal is to locate the item and practice a payment strategy," Special Education teacher Mrs. Beth O'Halak said. Bottom Right: On a day set aside for fun, Junior Crystal Recio plays miniature golf. Students also go bowling and work in different stores throughout the community.

Meeting individual needs

Individual education courses have been set up to help students meet their individual educational and social needs. Teachers and support staff stress the community experience for students by practicing both social and safety skills with them.

Special Education teacher Ms. Beth O'Halek has been working in this field for 15 years, and she joined the staff this year.

"I like being part of a large staff and working with students in one building," Mrs. O'Halak said. "My goal is to get back to why I chose teaching as a career and why I chose to work with this population."

Students are in a supported classroom, with courses modified to help each student achieve his or her goals. The teachers and staff help them practice their social skills to prepare them for life after they leave school.

"We call this functional academics," Mrs. O'Halak said, "and we focus on vocational and communication skills.

The activities in the class are geared toward helping the students become more independent. While the curriculum is based upon each student's developmental skills, teachers and staff stress an awareness of community. Students participate in many out-of-school activities designed to help them be comfortable in the community once they graduate.

"From a teacher/sponsor that encouraged my interests and volunteerism that continued through my school career, I decided to study special education at Ball State University."
Mrs. Beth O'Halek

"I always wanted to be a teacher, and working with special needs kids and adults just finalized my decision about what area I wanted to specialize in."
Mrs. Melissa Szczerba

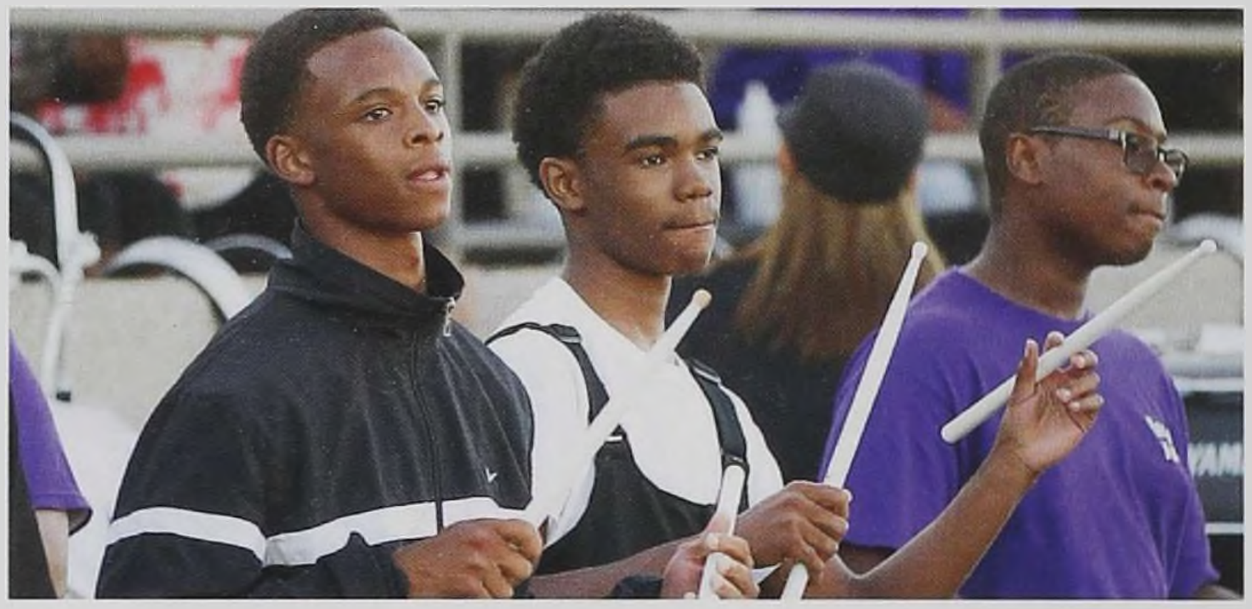
Q&A Why did you choose that instrument?

"My mother played it and she had a really good mouth for it. That got passed down to me, so I can play it really easily. It's fun. It sounds pretty."
–Sophomore Laura Bier

"It's a fun instrument to play and it's a new experience. It's unique. It's a lot harder to play than most instruments."
–Junior Mitchell Brayfield

"My mom played it when I was little, so I chose it too! I wanted to be just like her."
–Senior Katelyn Haddaway

"I chose the trombone because it was unique. It's an instrument that you wouldn't see many girls playing, so it's fun to prove to the guys that you can play just as well as them."
–Junior Morgan Lesich



To excite the crowd between quarters of the Friday night football game, Junior Reese Gibson drums along with the rest of the Drum Line. "Marching in half is my favorite memory. It was fun entertaining the people," Gibson said. Gibson said regular band is different from the Drum Line because the drum line has its own music.

At a home basketball game, Junior Brandon Mizanin plays his guitar. "I've always liked music and I wanted to try something new," Mizanin said. "I've been playing for about four years." He said he enjoyed performing with the Pep Band because he can be as loud as possible.

During the winter concert, Freshman Emmanuel Willis plays his tenor saxophone in unison with the rest of the wind section. "I picked up the saxophone because I wanted to try something new," Willis said. "I still play because it's something fun to do and it takes up my time." Willis has been playing since the sixth grade, and he also play the guitar, drums and bass.

Along with the rest of the Pep Band, Senior Keon Gibson plays during halftime of a basketball game. "My favorite instrument in band is the drums," Gibson said. "I am able memorize songs because I naturally have a pattern of rhythm." Gibson performed during an event at the Guitar Center and more than 200 people showed up, including drummers for Nicki Minaj and Mary J. Blidge.

As she stands at attention, Sophomore Melissa Brayfield plays a citizen in the Marching Band's fall show, "How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse." "I thought the zombie idea was cool and really different," Brayfield said. Brayfield designed her outfit for the Marching Band's performances and stepped into the shoes of her character for her first year on the Color Guard team.

While playing during halftime at a football game, Junior Jonathan Lipp shows off his skills on the saxophone. "I enjoy Marching Band because it gives me something to do," Lipp said. "I started the sport of marching to show up my brother." Lipp said he picked the saxophone because "it sounds nice and powerful."

From gold medals to state qualifiers

The marching band begins the year preparing for the halftime shows at football games. Their show, "How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse," won them three gold medals and one silver during the fall marching band competitions.

"I love marching season because of the football games. I love the energy the fans have at the game," Junior Marguerite Culbreath said. "My favorite thing is when I get to perform in Color Guard during halftime. I try my best not to drop the stick."

Concert band students competed at the Indiana State School Music Association Solo and Ensemble competition. Seniors Colin Evans and Katelyn Haddaway, Junior Morgan Lesich and Sophomores Adrianne Conn, Yvonne Luna and Laura Bier all advanced to state.

Band Director Mr. Mark Danielson also works with students in pep and jazz bands.

Band members perform at many events throughout the school year. In addition to football games, they perform at 12 basketball games and the Merrillville and Crown Point Fourth of July parades. They also present several concerts in Reinhart Auditorium.

Haddaway had a busy year. She performed at Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade and she was picked to be in the Indiana All Star band along with fellow drum majors Lesich and Junior David Lewis.

While the band performs at the holiday concert, Freshman Breshaye Spear plays her clarinet. "I picked the clarinet because my sister played it too. She was also my inspiration to begin band," Spear said. Spear has been playing since the fourth grade and she also plays the guitar, bass clarinet and keyboard.

Fall Marching Festivals
Three gold & a silver

Indiana State School
Music Association Results

Overall Score-
Pieces- Silver
Sight Reading - Gold

Freshman
Pieces - Gold
Sight Reading - Gold

Jazz Band - Gold

After the orchestra finishes a piece, Junior Mariana Cantu flips to the next piece. "I joined orchestra in sixth grade. The high schoolers came and played for us and I wanted to be just like them," Cantu said. Cantu said she picked the violin because she loves the sound of the E string.

During the concert, Sophomore Kelsey Harvey keeps the tempo while playing the bass. "Being a girl and playing the boss is difficult," Harvey said, "because I have small hands and I have to spread them out farther." Harvey said she started playing because she wanted to be in the symphony and she saw a man playing. She said it sparked an interest in the instrument. "I love the winter concert," Harvey said.

New director welcomes opportunity

The biggest change to the orchestra program this year came in the form of a new director. Former Director Mr. John Bradford's retirement left a position open. After interviewing potential candidates, the decision to hire Mr. Jeff Lang came at an opportune time.

"I thought it was a good opportunity. I knew the program had a good history and potential to grow," Mr. Lang said.

Mr. Lang has been teaching for 16 years, with a background as a professional musician in a major symphony orchestra. He said he has found he enjoys teaching just as much.

"I connect with the students. I also enjoy helping others. I feel like I'm having fun all four periods," Mr. Lang said.

Freshman Steffan Santiago likes the change.

"He is an excellent teacher. He knows what to do. He actually bonds with everyone," Santiago said.

Santiago is one of the freshmen in advanced orchestra. The cello player who has earned silver medal for the Indiana State Music Association completion said he feels he has earned his place in the advanced orchestra.

"They accepted me when they heard me play. They were wowed. I feel I am one of them now" Santiago said.

The orchestra program consists of three levels: beginning, intermediate and advanced. Beginning orchestra is mostly made up of freshmen. Intermediate orchestra consists of sophomores, juniors and seniors. Advanced orchestra students are beyond their years in playing skill and musical comprehension.

Indiana State School Music Association Competition

Advanced Orchestra- Gold

Combined Intermediate and Beginning Ochestras- Gold

Proud of her performance, Junior Asiana Peterson converses with the rest of the orchestra between songs. "We are a family and get along well together," Peterson said. "We love to make music together. It is an amazing experience because not everyone is able to do what we do."

Practicing during class, Junior Doe'Ja Pinkins plays "Summer Stomp." Pinkins said she started playing in fifth grade because she wanted to be like her aunt and follow in her footsteps. "Mr. Lang helps me a lot. He helps me build my confidence up," Pinkins said. "I loved the Halloween concert. I went as a bunny."

To prepare for the concert Sophomore Eryn Jenkins plays her violin in class. "I love the G string on the violin. The high pitch sounds amazing," Jenkins said. Jenkins said she practices about 30 minutes a day. "I love the Christmas concert because I love to get into the Christmas spirit. It also had my favorite music," Jenkins said.

Switching her music to the next page, Sophomore Erica Dixon prepares to play the next piece on her cello. "I love the Halloween concert because I got to dress up as Peter Pan," Dixon said. Dixon used to play the violin, and her parents enrolled her in private lessons. "When I tested the cello it appealed more to me. I love the lower strings" she said.

Q&A How does orchestra help you in school?

"It helped me create my group of friends because we've known each other since the summer before sixth grade."
Sophomore Gia Sadural

"It gave me the experience to enjoy music."
Senior Damian DiGangi

"It helped me expand my group of friends, and it lead me to new things, and it took me out of my comfort zone."
Sophomore Emily Glover

"It has taught me how to work in a group. I've become more responsible, too. It's helped me manage my time better. But, most importantly, it has taught me how to be a leader."
Senior Kayla Sadural

Along with Sophomore Haley Funches, Junior Sabrina Carroll plays her violin. "I always wanted to play the violin. Music is my passion," Carroll said. Carroll has been playing since the summer of fifth grade. "I love the Christmas concert. I love noticing the difference in our performances from the last time. Also all the improvements we made. We also went to class the next day and talked about how we could improve," Carroll said. Carroll said her favorite part is performing in concert. "I love it because playing as a group is wonderful. We are a family. Orchestra is family," Carroll said.

Q&A How will choir benefit your future?

"Choir has taught me self-discipline and how to work as a team which is beneficial for my future."

—Senior Cassandra Govert

"The choir program has helped me to establish confidence."

—Junior Rebecca Koeppl

"My future career will be involving a lot of music, so being in choir has helped prepare me for that."

—Senior Rebekah Mongold

"Choir has taught me how to be independent but work in a group as well."

—Senior Dominique Smith

With the snow falling upon them, the choir sings "White Christmas." "I did not expect the snow to fall on us," Senior Sebastian Arreola said. "The snow falling was a good addition to the song. It also wasn't real snow. They were bubbles."

With the spotlight on the sopranos of the choir, they sing "White Christmas." "This is my favorite song during Christmas time," Senior Demesha Kelly said. "We had an outstanding audience and they gave lovely comments on our performance."

Everyone comes on stage to sing "Hanukkah" during the Christmas concert. "All the practice that we had paid off once we performed each and every song," Junior Tilaya Harris said. "My favorite part is beginning, intermediate and advanced choir singing together."

At the end of the annual holiday choir concert in 2011, Mr. Jerauld Reinhart conducts the Hallelujah Chorus. One of the saddest assignments choir members faced this year was singing at his funeral. The founder of Ross Music Theatre, Mr Reinhart taught at MHS for 39 years. The auditorium is named in his honor. He died February 13, 2014. "Without Mr. Reinhart Senior, we would not have such a great choral program or musicals," Senior Rebekah Mongold said. "My grandfather will be missed dearly by many but he will live on every time we have a choir concert or play," Sophomore Jacob Reinhart said.

As they slide to the sound of music, the choral students perform "A Holiday to Remember" after practicing for three months. "A Holiday to Remember' was the opener of the whole Christmas concert," Freshman Cherise Higgins said. "I had fun being a part of a nice sounding choir and then getting to perform it on the stage."

Visiting the elementary schools, Senior William Akins III, Junior Cassidy Koontz and Senior Kiera Shackelford, members of the Choral Teens, perform holiday songs. "Going to tour the elementary schools is an annual tradition that has been done for many years now," Mrs. Melinda Reinhart said. "It was started by my father in-law Jerauld Reinhart and I want to keep it going."

Indiana State School Music Association Competition

Results from state competition

102 Gold Medals – 2 Silver Medals

Medals were awarded to 14 gold soloists, 2 silver soloists and 6 gold ensembles. Gold medal ensembles include Merrillville Seniors, Vocalteen Men, Choralteen Women, Shackelford Ensemble and the Choralteen Purple and Choralteen White ensembles.

The choir students jazz up the show with the song, "Happy Kwanzaa" with soloist Senior Waymon Cruise. "This song was cool because it was basically student choreographed." Cruise said. "I believe this song was a favorite of many for this concert."

Dedication, sacrifice helps choir snag ISSMA gold

Each August, the choral students step into action preparing for future singing and dancing-filled events.

"It takes dedication to achieve what we do," Senior Demesha Kelly said. "I often have those times of just wanting to relax and not work on music, but I am dedicated to singing and helping us sound great."

The Choralteens practice each Monday evening.

"At times, I stay after school leading up to when practice starts at 6 p.m. because I do not have a ride home and back." Junior Quanisha Vaughn said. "That's just a sacrifice I make to be in choir because music is what I love."

Choir Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart said she believes her groups have had a good year, especially at Indiana State School Music Association state competition. At the regional competition, they received 106 gold and 12 silver.

"At state, we received 102 gold medals and 2 silver medals," Mrs. Reinhart said. "I'm exceptionally proud of my students because I know how hard they worked in previous months."

Two of the soloists, Senior Kiera Shackelford and Leann Powell, earned gold medals on their performances at ISSMA..

"It felt great to get gold on my solo," Shackelford said. "I worked night and day on the song, plus I got a near perfect score, so in the end all that practice paid off."

"I think having as much confidence I had helped me get a gold," Powell said. "I had faith in myself and the outcome was pretty sweet."

In addition to the annual holiday concert, choir members looked forward to their spring concert that featured dozens of Disney songs

"This will probably be my favorite concert out of all of the concerts just because I love Disney," Senior Briana Frazier said. "Mrs. Reinhart is doing a noble job at making sure we sound great every time we open our mouths to sing."

During the year, students get to know each other on a higher level.

"Choir class being held every day, I have grown a strong attachment to these little children," Senior Valencia smith said. "We always joke around and we're there for each other for the most part."

n her first solo opportunity, Senior Christian Garza sings "Marshmallow World." Garza said she was excited to have he opportunity. "This being the first time I've had a solo since joined choir freshman year, I think I rocked it," Garza said. "I oved being on stage and hearing people cheer me on."

Beginning Band

Director: Mr. Mark Danielson

Front row: Kamari Cage, Georgia Thayer, Serena Thormann, Infinity Patton, Kalea Jackson, Jennifer Villanueva, Breshaye Specir, Caila Surrett, Madison Ross; Second row: Larissa Hart, Hannah Umbarger, Allison Vanderbilt, Iziah Readus, Taylor Cazy, Jaron Woods; Third row: Xavier Madera, Malik Bradley, Tyler Carlisle, Isaac Graham, Emmanuel Willis; Fourth row: Makayla Hollingsworth, Jalen Adams, Gerald Akujobi, Marcus Miller, Jahnari Pruitt, Kaja Sims; Back row: Mr. Danielson, Nana Asabere, John Ohiani-Jegede. Milan Trajkovski.

Intermediate Band

Director: Mr. Mark Danielson

Front row: Mr. Danielson, Shania Blue, Yvonne Luna, Brianna Brown, T'Aira Anderson; Second row: Keith Baker, Aaron Woodson, Vanessa Bush, Isaiah Taylor, David Walls; Third row: Jordan Dillon, Donyel Borom, Aaron Sanders, Justin Johnson, Isaiah Hernandez; Back row: Ryan Patton, Na'Jvia Caruthers. Ruben Maldonado, Cameron Bracey, Pierre Scott.

Advanced Band

Director: *Mr. Mark Danielson*

Front row: Arianne Conn, Yvonne Luna, Viridiana Carrillo, Isabella Stevens, Samantha Keith, Breyanna Turner, Ana Hernandez, Morgan Lesich; Second row: Mr. Danielson, Laura Bier, Daija Bravo, Samantha Dixon, Michael Robinson, Tyler Westbrook, Brandon Mizanin, Jada Day, Joseph Twitdy, Huldah Ohiani-Jegede; Third row: Ashiala Jackson, Marguerite Culbreath, Katelyn Haddaway, Darne` Bell, Julian Bell, Lawrence Williams, Anna Feliciano, Mitchell Brayfield, Jaz Talley; Fourth row: Daiyon Bryant, Justin Patton, Drelen Williams, Adrian Brooks, Karlos Pacheco, Brenna Bell, Michael Shannon, Jose Medina, Keon Gibson; Back row: Luke Ratley, Ethan LaBelle, Micah Burgstahler, Orlando Lopez, Xayvion Williamson, Alya Shelton, Ronell King, Jonathon Epp, Sean Noonan.

Jazz Band

Director: *Mr. Mark Danielson*

Front row: Mr. Danielson, Jennifer Villanueva, Colin Evans, Allison Vanderbilt, Huldah Ohiani-Jegede; Second row: Kaja Sims, Xavier Madera, Morgan Lesich, Emmanuel Willis, Isaac Graham; Third row: Kalea Jackson, Joseph Twitdy, William Akins III, Milan Trajkovski, Brenna Bell; Back row: Gerald Akujobi, John Ohiani-Jegede, Nana Asabere; Not pictured: Darne` Bell, Breyshaye Spear.

Beginning Orchestra
Director: Mr. Jeff Lang
Front row: Isobel Collins, Justin Turner Jr., Maxwell Stevens, Torian Bryant, Briyanna McNeal; Second row: Justin Morey, Heather Osorio, Grettel Peralta, Arryn Williams, Jae'Lenn Johnson, Naya Blackwell, Aleecia Niezgoda; Third row: Kathleen Aton, Madison Blackwell, Rachel McChristian, Sydney Sheppard, Courtney Taylor, Joshel Richards, Christian Luckett, Aunteria Howard; Fourth row: Anya Johnson, Jazzybell Quinones, Lauren Stanley, Brittany Cain, Alisha Mongold, Megan Mays, Willow Johnson; Back row: Hannah Duran, Joseph Harris, Mahqueese McMillan, Jakoko Edmond, Terry Sabbath, Fabienne Laurisch.

Beginning Orchestra
Director: Mr. Jeff Lang
Front row: Leia Malcolm, Devon Bailey, Natalie Paz, Deion Charleston, Emily Decausemaker, Ivory Jones, Breonna Baggett; Second row: Kelsey Harvey, Ashley Hunt, Courtney Chavez, Antonio Cruz, David Rosa, Samia Henley, Alexus Simpson, Brook Shelton; Third row: Timoya Bryant, DeAndrea Mitchell, LaAshtiana Ivey, Dale Holley, Ivori Fultan, Tatyanah Cross; Back row: Darrel Glass II, Cezar Hernandez, Jacob Cabrera.

ntermediate Orchestra
Director: Mr. Jeff Lang
Front row: Angel Ramon De La Cruz, Josh Hiller, Anthony Turner, Dae'Ja Pinkins, Bethany Rochefort, Erica Dixon; Second row: Elijah Coy, Brenda Garcia, Tiffany Holst, Ireon Smith, Jannel Boyd, Chaila Sanchez, DaJaNay Askew, Isaiah Alleyne; Third row: Jonathon Tucker, Vanessa Yanez, Dominique Carpenter, Alana Charles, Haley Funches, Alexis Delk, Colton Maynard; Fourth row: Danielle Dewees, Emily Glover, Janae' West, Eryn Jenkins, Angela Terry, Jada Johnson; Back row: Brianna Raketic, Juan Adame, Aaron Gamble, Brandon Akers, Ahveyon Williams.

Advanced Orchestra
Director: Mr. Jeff Lang
Front row: Gia Sadural, Damian DiGangi, Darius Marteen, Steffan Santiago, Victoria Miller, Eduardo Yanez, Dorothy Williams; Second row: Brandon Bass, Maryam Ali, Kennady Wright, Almanoemi Acosta, Aaliyah Smith, Mariana Cantu, Shaquita Dillard, Marcus Bass; Third row: Khayla Reid, Anna Davis, Cynequa Cross, Maya Griffin, Melissa Brayfield, Brenden Perez, Mya Wilson, Hope Krajnak; Fourth row: Maxwell Moore, Emily Gronli, Victoria Frey, Matthew Hill, Kayla Sadural, Elizabeth Nino, Naeemah White, Imani Smith; Back row: Alexis Deter, Asianna Peterson, Chase Mihal, Ashlin Gibson, Alonzo Brown, David Hinton, Megan Wilkerson, Krysta Thomas.

Choralteers

Director: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart
Front row: Demesha Kelly, Ashley Walton, Jasmin Pollard, Sebatian Arreola, Elijah Ray, Waymon Cruse, Rebekah Mongold, Rebecca Koeppl, Yiqi Duan; Second row: Tilaya Harris, Shelby Holden, Arion Walton, William Akins III, Cassandra Govert, E'laija Mayo, Brittany Edmond, Christian Garza ; Third row: Domonique Smith, Kiera Shackelford, Surrae Robinson, Jordan Downs, Jacob Reinhart, Nigel Moore, Valencia Smith, Quanisha Vaughn, Arianna Williams; Back row: Ashley Benkert, Cassidy Koontz, Samantha Triplett, Chelsea Williams.

Noteables

Director : Mrs. Melinda Reinhart
Front row: Leann Powell, Jasmine Lopez, ShaVonne Nelson, Sarah Bradash, Alysha Holley, Sierra Jeffries, Carissa McKinney, Alexia Rainey, Natavia Lenoir; Second row: Victoria Sansone, Hope Wagonblast, Tyshay Doss, Wynonna Wagonblast, Patricia Matheny, Alesha Moody, Terica Bethel, Alaila Lewis; Third row: Lacy Bridgeman, Alexandria Umbarger, Briana Frazier, Lorrita Ross, Jessica Holmes, Alexis Henney, Christina Nilsson; Back row: Aliza Crawford, Tranette Cargo, Janelle Taylor, Amanda Rivera.

Concert Choir

Director: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart
Front row: Azariah Campbell, Ja'Lah Cleveland, Imani Purnell, Ke'Ayzia Holliday, Marlana de Moraes Emiliano, Cynthia Hindmon, Alexandria Flowers, Marrisa McClelland, Shannan Moore, Jala Montgomery, Sharice Jackson, Kiarah Gamble; Second row: Sarah Price, Nikita Weaver, Ashley Matthews, Deven Nguyen, Michael Johnson, Brian Moore, Thomas Novak, Faith Perry, Vanessa Peluyera, Scarlett Smith; Third row: Bri'Anna Rangel, TasMarie Johnson, Yolanda Kelly, Devyn Williams, Justin Smith, Miguel Martinez, Jamie Brown, Anthony Gage, Cherise Higgins, Jlah Massie, Maria Wietfeldt; Back row: Jazmine Huffmon, Dashanee' Hunter, Tyreak Thomas, Antonio Cornelius Jr., Jordan Crook, Day'Shoun Robinson, Isaiah Davis, Brandon Shelton, Raven Warren, Charysse James.

AFJROTC Top 6
Sponsors: Maj. Guy Ramey, SSgt. Daniel Wrasman
Front row: Jasmine Lilja, Jacob Stocker. Back row: Aaron Beshears, Marcus Bass, Alexander Begala, Matthew Hollins.

AFJROTC Physical Training Team
Sponsors: Maj. Guy Ramey, SSgt. Daniel Wrasman
Front row: Ah'Sia Parker, Matthew Hollins, Tammiah Ingram. Second row: Antonio Cornelius Jr., Brandon Fassoth, Dakota Shelton. Back row: Anthony Fassoth, Benjamin Worthington, Raymond Duque.

AFJROTC Drill Team and Color Guard
Sponsors: Maj. Guy Ramey, SSgt. Daniel Wrasman
Front row: Amber Drake, Marchala' Yarbrough, Scarlett Smith, Sydnee Stubbs, Ah'Sia Parker, Nehemiah Nunnery. Second row: Ceana Escalante, Sarita Gaona, Brandon Carpenter, Tammiah Ingram, Phillip Barnes, Tynithia Robinson. Back row: Andre Peterson, Antonio Cornelius Jr., Carlos Mejia, Aaron Beshears, Marcus Bass.

Smiling down at participants in the MPAC Trick or Treat event, Junior Farid Muhammad passes out candy. Muhammad said of all the MPAC events, Trick or Treating with children in the community was one of his favorites. "My favorite thing was just seeing the smiles on the kids' faces," Muhammad said.

While explaining the game of musical chairs, Senior Darryl King sees how fun it is to be around younger children. "I actually had a lot of fun. It helped me realize how enjoyable kids really are," King said. "I felt great doing it." King participated in the annual Key Club carnival as a freshmen mentor.

With arms extended behind animated characters Iron Man, Woody and Buzz Lightyear, Junior Christian Espino poses in Times Square. As part of STAND's biannual trip to New York City, Espino along with 18 other students expanded their knowledge of immigration and diversity. "New York is just so diverse and different from Merrillville. It truly is the city that never sleeps," Espino said.

While visiting Helen at Spring Mill Health Campus, Senior Cassandra Govert completes community service hours for National Honor Society. Govert was Vice President for NHS. "I wanted to be able to help make their days a little brighter. Some of them don't have any family that visits them, and it can be really lonely for them, especially when they are dealing with various illnesses or ailments," Govert said.

Most involved, Govert leaves her mark

To enrich their high school experience many students join extracurricular activities. One student from the Class of 2014 stands out among the rest. Named Most Actively Involved for the Senior Class, Cassandra Govert participated in the school newspaper, Socially Together And Naturally Diverse, National Honor Society, Quill & Scroll, Southshore Leadership Youth for Community Engagement, Choralteers, Freshman Mentoring, soccer and class government.

"Overall I would say it's been a great experience," Govert said. "It makes you grow up faster, you learn responsibility, and you get to focus on bettering yourself all while having fun."

Govert said she chose clubs based on how they would benefit her in the future. "I joined each club for different reasons. I chose areas that I knew I could help," Govert said. "For instance, I've been involved with STAND since middle school and I think it's a great opportunity to give back to the community and I joined newspaper because I could see myself doing that as a possible career."

Govert held leadership positions in several organizations. "For STAND, I'm the Director of Leadership. For NHS, I'm Vice President. For the Class of 2014, I'm both Treasurer and Secretary, and I can't forget that I'm the editor-in-chief for the newspaper," Govert said.

For Govert, balancing homework along with all her responsibilities to her clubs has not been without some stress. "It definitely hasn't been easy, but time management is key. Lots of late nights," Govert said. "I feel I run well on deadlines and of course I have great club sponsors and teachers who are willing to help me."

Govert knew when enough was enough. "I remember I asked her about the possibility of joining Spanish Club and she just began listing all these clubs she participates in to see where it would fit in her schedule for the week," Spanish teacher Mrs. Hannah Coronado said.

Govert stressed the importance of underclassmen getting involved in MHS' student organizations.
"I would advise any underclassmen to just go for it," Govert said. "You may be apprehensive in the beginning, especially if you are a freshman, because you may not know anyone, but once you get started you start to feel like you've become a part of a family."

Socially Together And Naturally Diverse

Sponsors: Mrs. Beverly Van Drunen and Mrs. Heidi Schellinger

Front row: Angelique Oyervides, Nadia Duke, Cassandra Govert, Paige Mills, Katy Guzek, Megan Austin, Elizabeth Nino; Second row: Taylor Cody, Jazlyn Martinez, Domonique Smith, Marissa Collins, Nazaraih Perez, Cynthia Hindmon, Yiqi Duan, Nadia Belk, Khandi King; Third row: Leah Ray, A'ona Richardson, Asia Wilson, Andrew Merced, D'Nay Lightning, JayLynn Hardrick, Christopher Howard, Miaya Scott, Ashley Mendez, Yolanda Kelly, Halina Duke; Fourth row: Bianca Cardenas, Bri'Anna Rangel, Justin Smith, Tatyanah Cross, Keiyara Clayton, Mechai Sharks, Landon Rosa, Angelica Navarro, LaAshtiana Ivey, Britnye Cameron; Back row: Mrs. Van Drunen, Kianna Reed, Joshua Hiller, Amarillis Rentas, Johnathon Arce, Cameron Boone, Robert Moore Jr., Ashton Anekwe, Daniel Levenson, Mrs. Schellinger.

Relevance of immigration to students in today's culture

Every year, Socially Together and Naturally Diverse (STAND) comes together to foster a sense of diversity. To study the impact of immigration on today's society, 19 members went to New York City.

"Our ultimate goal was for the students to gain a greater sense of history," Sponsor Mrs. Beverly Van Drunen said, "as well as an appreciation for how immigration still affects us today."

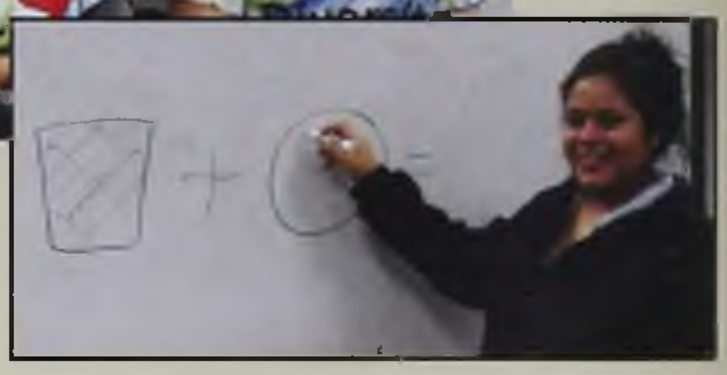
To get the full experience, students participated in a number of activities and tours.

"I enjoyed the Lower East Side tenement museum the most," Senior Angelique Oyervides said. "It was just eye-opening to see how so many immigrants lived once they moved to America."

Sponsors split students into groups of five to present their findings on immigration.

"The presentation aspect was important because a lot of students don't get a chance to leave Indiana," Mrs. Van Drunen said, "so the kids who participated have a responsibility to educate their peers."

Seniors Elizabeth Nino and Katy Guzek



Senior Bianca Cardenas

Environmental Club

Sponsors: Mrs. Kristin Campbell and Mrs. Patricia Robison

Front row: Amari Smith-McPhee, Cynthia Hindmon, Scarlett Smith, David Hinton II; Back row: Mrs. Campbell, Darryl King, Alexis Schulatz, Fabienne Laurisch, Megan Mays, Isobel Collins, Mrs. Robison, Cheyenne Adams, Alexandria Matzaris, Julianne Roberts; Not pictured: Sydney Harper.

Student Government always busy

Members of Student Government planned events year-round to make the school year exciting and enjoyable. Quick planning was needed for the Homecoming Week festivities.

The members organized the days of Spirit Week, planned the Goofy Games and decorated the Hall of Flags for the dance.

The next fundraiser they did was the Thanksgiving Food Drive. All the food collected goes to a local food pantry.

"We raised about 2,000 items for the Thanksgiving Food Drive," Sponsor Ms. Samantha St. Aubin said.

Student Government worked with the Freshman Mentors to put together shoe boxes filled with necessities to send to kids in Africa. The students in Student Government sent ten shoe boxes.

Also, they adopted 172 elementary school students and, with the help of teachers and students, collected presents for them to open on Christmas morning.

Student Government Officers
Sponsor: Ms. Samantha St. Aubin
Front row: Meagan Clarkson, Kora Bramson, Elizabeth Nino; Back row: Alice Canchola, Deon Jones Jr.

Senior Deon Jones Jr.

Student Government
Sponsor: Ms. Samantha St. Aubin
Front row: Kora Bramson, Alexis Barron, Princess Graham, Tomeria Marshall, Meagan Clarkson, Marissa Collins; Second row: Desaree Johnson, Emily Gronli, Allanisette Dawson, Leah Ray, Imani Campbell, Taylor Cody, Viridiana Carrillo, Mariana Cantu, Alice Canchola; Third row: Ms. St. Aubin, Destiny Chavers, Tasha Hardin, Tyler Kaiser, Casey Harvey, Elizabeth Nino; Fourth row: Kelci Coker, Halina Duke, Dominique Brown, Jasmine Taylor, Chiamara Anokwute, Adrian Gibson-Moreno, Jada Shannon; Back row: Deon Jones Jr., Humberto Sanchez, Johnathon Arce, Roberto Jeronimo, Caddon McWilliams.

Peer Mediators
Sponsor: Mrs. Veronica Maldonado
Front row: Yiqi Duan, Emily Gronli, Danbrielle Carter;
Back row: Mrs. Maldonado, Jacqueline Pollard, Lauren Smith, Taylor Cody.

IMPACT Day Facilitators
Sponsor: Mrs. Beverly Van Drunen
Front row: Domonique Smith, Carolina Henderson, Casey Harvey, Cassandra Govert, Elizabeth Nino; Second row: LaAshtiana Ivey, Caitlinn Caddick, Katy Guzek, Ashley Mendez, Paige Mills, Charity Gilkey; Third row: Kianna Reed, Nadia Duke, Angelique Oyervides, Angelica Navarro, Shana Sarris; Back row: Mrs. Van Drunen, Johnathon Arce, Robert Moore Jr., Cameron Boone.

Facilitators break down barriers

IMPACT Day was established about four years ago when alumnus Bryan Popa was inspired by the MTV show, "If You Really Knew Me." He immediately called In-School Suspension Supervisor Mrs. Beverly Van Drunen, who was a student at the time, Diversity Coordinator Mr. Danny Lackey and alumnus Richard Hernandez.

They created the program and manual at a table at Applebee's. So far, about 980 students have participated in the program, and 19 are trained facilitators this year.

"I feel like IMPACT Day does give students a chance to get to know people out of the circle of friends, which breaks down negative barriers and allows students to get to know others for who they really are," Mrs. Van Drunen said.

Senior Facilitator Katy Guzek is proud to have a part in this program.

"Being a facilitator has allowed me to realize that a lot of people go through a lot of similar things, and even when someone looks fine, they can be going through a lot. I appreciate people more, and I am more understanding," Guzek said.

Part of IMPACT Day's mission is to encourage students to become positive agents of change within their school and community.

Senior Domonique Lambert, Junior Austin Shea, Seniors Paige Mills and Andreana Wesley

Junior Colton Maynard, Senior Elizabeth Nino and Junior Samantha Reeves

Sophomore Antonio Cornelius Jr.

Sponsor Ms. Carol Von Behren

'Germs Be Gone' earns silver at FCCLA state competition

As in previous years, members of Family Career and Community Leaders of America travel to Indianapolis to compete for medals and scholarships.

The state competition consisted of 20 different events, including speech, child care and community service.

After FCCLA members decided their community service project would focus on children, they prepared for two weeks.

"We chose 'Germs Be Gone'," Junior Ra'vyn Dickinson said. "It teaches kids how to wash their hands properly."

FCCLA member Junior DeAndrea Mitchell went to Indianapolis to represent her fellow members. Even though it was Mitchell's first year going to the competition, she earned a silver medal for the 'Germs Be Gone' project speech.

"Overall, competition was good," Mitchell said. "I liked it, and I'm going to try to go again next year."

Family Career and Community Leaders of America
Sponsor: Ms. Carol Von Behren
Front row: Nadia Belk, Asia Wilson, Lauren Smith, Brandi Sims, Yasmin Yasin, DeAndrea Mitchell; Second row: Ms. Von Behren, Camille Lee, Alexandra Dobrea, Alondria Shufford, Kamaria Richardson, Eufracia Taisipic; Back row: Madeline Estrada, Tiffany Johnson, Tyler Kaiser, Ra'Vyn Dickinson, Senobia Sanders, Brittany Ervin.

National Honor Society
Sponsor: Ms. Erin Flores
Front row: Dominique Smith, Kiera Shackelford, Jasmin Navarro, Breyanna Turner, Kayla Sadural, Cassandra Govert, Katy Guzek, Amanda Jackson; Second row: Melanie Atria, Elizabeth Nino, Taylor Cody, Caitlinn Caddick, Isabella Stevens, Hannah Dixon, Shawnay Lardydell; Third row: Chloe Howard, Paige Mills, Nadia Duke, Rachel Humes, Megan Austin, Kirsten Wiley, Kyle Hartlerode; Back row: Collins Mbachu, Adam Tapper, Jacob Carey, Michael Anderson, Chiamara Anokwute, Alexander Begala.

NHS strives for success through community service

National Honor Society is a nationwide organization that celebrates students' good character, leadership and good grades.

"To be a part of the club, they must meet certain expectations that show they are hard-working," NHS sponsor Ms. Erin Flores said.

NHS emphasizes community service and individual work with children. Students lend a hand by volunteering at the Humane Society, tutoring, participating in Meals on Wheels and visiting local nursing homes.

To welcome the new students into the society, an induction ceremony is held for them.

"The ceremony was a way to close up the current year and transition into the next year," Senior Nadia Duke said.

Along with Duke, the seniors, the president, the secretary and the treasurer spoke at the ceremony. They would speak of the various individual acts of community service they performed and of the four pillars of the club. The pillars are service, scholarship, character and leadership. The pillars represent the main expectations of the club and what the students should strive to be good at.

Seniors Megan Austin and Michael Anderson

Senior Jacob Carey, Junior Bradley Brack and Seniors Isabella Stevens and Adam Tapper

Youth Enriched by Service
Sponsor: Ms. Betty Jordan
Front row: Drew King, Jordan Kenner, Yiqi Duan, Rajaune' Richards; Second row: Ms. Jordan, Taylor Cody, Emerald Eddie, Diamond Eddie, Mrs. Veronica Maldonado; Back row: Tiffanie Goodman, Antonio Cornelius Jr., Amber Dawning, JayLynn Hardrick.

YES club improves community

Youth Enriched by Service Club consists of 20 members with Senior President Diamond Eddie and Senior Vice President Taylor Cody leading the way.

YES hosted monthly bake sales to raise money for the club.

"We're broke, and we needed money to do different activities and go places," Sponsor Ms. Betty Jordan said.

The treasurer of the club, Junior Jordan Kenner, handled the finances for the club.

"I like my job because it was a fun learning experience, and it teaches me responsibility for handling money," Kenner said.

At the end of March, YES club attended "Storm over climate change" at Purdue Calumet sponsored by Hammond's Rotary Club.

"We do many things in YES Club," Eddie said, "and I'm just sad to leave after I graduate."

Freshman Mentors – Juniors

Sponsor: Mrs. Rae Lopez

Front row: Maryam Roberts, Cassidy Koontz, Yiqi Duan, Briante Rodgers, Jenna Jurczyk, Andres Nunez, Andrew Merced; Second row: Bianca Murphy, Terrance Grayson, Mikayla Harmon, Kayla Grant, Morgan Lesich, Huldah Ohiani-Jegede, David Rodriguez; Third row: Andres Carrillo, Darshawn Woodard, Jaz Talley, Naphtalia Ruth, Bradley Salka, Aaron Morigi, Angelica Navarro; Back row: Cameron Brooks, James Britton III, Vejer Cox, Gregory Vega Jr., David Lewis, Kenneth Moore.

Freshman Mentors – Seniors

Sponsor: Mrs. Rae Lopez

Front row: Shaquita Dillard, Domonique Smith, Brittany Rainey, Cree Smith, Aaron Fuller, Sebastian Arreola, Alexis Deter, Tyshay Doss; Second row: Kiera Shackelford, Taylor Cody, Asia Wilson, Marissa Gallardo, Christa Martin, Paige Mills, Cassandra Govert, Ronald Woods, Camille Lee, Shawnay Lardydell, Timothy Howard; Third row: Kennedy Wilck, Megan Wilkerson, Whitney Reese, Conor Shea, Paris Stewart, Tashod Coleman, Nadia Duke, Megan Austin, William Akins III, Waymon Cruse, Nygel Jackson, Cameron Boone; Fourth row: Damian DiGangi, Britnye Cameron, Robert Taylor, Niesha Jones, Adam Tapper, Denzel Young, Johnell West, Terrance Nichols, Keon Gibson, Sean Patton, Maggie Connelly; Back row: Javaun Willis, John Irak IV, Darryl King, Joshua DeLeon, Michael Spicknall, Michael Lipscomb, Salvador Higareda Jr., Tyrie Fuller, Tristan Coghill, Thomas Scolaro III, Jeffery Colby, Collins Mbachu Jr.

Making connections important to both mentors and freshmen

The Freshman Mentors are a group of juniors and seniors who provide counseling and guidance to help freshmen prepare for the rest of their high school careers.

Through different activities and exercises, freshmen were taught how to communicate, how to be proactive and how to express emotions.

Many freshmen found it to be a worthwhile learning experience.

"They taught me that in freshman year, you have to try your hardest because that's what will affect you your next three years," Freshman Brenden Perez said.

However, freshmen were not the only ones who benefitted from the program.

Senior William Akins III has been a mentor during his junior and senior years.

"Being able to connect with freshman and younger generations is so powerful," Akins said, "even if it doesn't seem like it at first."

Junior Shana Sams

Junior Moniel Sanders

Key Club
Sponsor: Ms. Ronda Waters
Front row. Alexis Deter, Adam Tapper, Chloe Howard; Second row: Shauntielle James, Alexandra Rich, Ashley Nowak, Candace Howard; Back row: Samantha Triplett, Ms. Waters, Marcus Castro.

Peer Helpers
Sponsors. Ms. Grace Dewald and Ms. Katelyn Holsclaw
Front row: Domonique Smith, Drew King, Allanisette Dawson, Alesha Moody, Kelci Coker, A'Leah Scott; Second row: Brianna Cole, Amber Downing, Maya Hill, Mechai Sharks, Tasha Hardin, Asia Wilson; Third row: Camille Lee, Tiffany Johnson, Alanna Heath, Chase Mihal, Raven Warren, Nadia Belk; Back row: Ms. Holsclaw, Britnye Cameron, Jordan McDonald, Jasmine Taylor, Donald Long.

Guiding freshmen and special needs students through high school career

With Guidance Counselor Ms. Grace Dewald leading the way, students at MHS trained each trimester to work with incoming freshmen and special needs students.

"The main goal of being a Peer Helper is to establish and cultivate a willingness to help others," Ms. Dewald said.

The Peer Helpers' main interests were to aid in the transition from middle school to high school, to help students struggling with teacher-student conflicts and to work alongside special needs students here at MHS.

"The Peer Helpers program is so beneficial for kids," Ms. Dewald said. "For some, it has even helped with choosing a career focused on special needs education."

GSA promotes acceptance through education

Three kids were instrumental this year in bringing a new club to Merrillville High School. The Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) caught the attention of many students with a new point of view as a club. Sponsor Mrs. Shana Chelich, along with the help of Seniors Shyvon Williams, Darius Marteen and Chase Mihal, said they started GSA to help people get comfortable with who they truly are.

"We wanted to spread acceptance and educate others," Mihal said.

Gay Straight Alliance
Sponsor: Mrs. Shana Chelich
Front row: Ashley Williams, Cynthia Hindmon, Layla Owens, Daniel Levenson, Dennis Dombrowski; Second row: Chase Mihal, Valencia Smith, Shyvon Williams, Steven Cook; Back row: Darius Marteen, Mrs. Chelich.

Spanish Club

Sponsors: Mrs. Esmeralda Palmerin-Zamora and Mrs. Monica DaCostaGomez

Front row: Jasmin Navarro, Chloe Howard, Candace Howard, Jasmin Pollard, Raina Robinson, Kennady Wright, Viridiana Carillo; Second row: Mrs. DaCostaGomez, Breyanna Turner, Bianca Cardenas, Yesenia Lopez, Angela Terry, Cameron Giles, Enrique Jones, Mrs. Palmerin-Zamora; Third row: Timisha Ivie, Johnathon Arce, Naphtalia Ruth, Jakqwuan Chandler, Maryam Ali, Angelica Navarro, David Rodriguez; Back row: Andres Carrillo, Christopher Rodriguez, Vincent Corralez, Damian DiGangi, Gregory Vega, Alexis Lopez, Ricky Heath Jr., Gildardo Quintero Jr.

Spanish Club welcomes all to social gatherings

Senior Landon Rosa

"¡Bienvenidos a todos!"

This Spanish phrase translates to "Welcome all!" in English.

"The club welcomes all eager students interested in learning about Spanish culture and heritage," Señora Monica DaCostaGomez, sponsor of the Spanish Club, said.

Club members enjoyed several gatherings, where they shared foods, danced and sang. Members also held fundraisers to raise money for the club activities.

"The club is for, most importantly, fun as well as enrichment," said Mrs. DaCostaGomez.

Also, the Spanish Club visited the Lincoln Park Zoo Lights and Cafe Iberico.

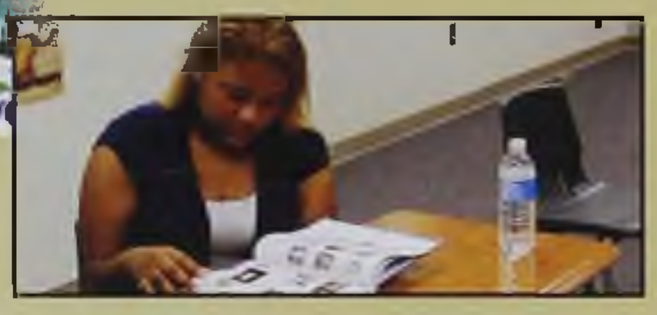
Junior Kennady Wright said she was happy she went on the Chicago field trip.

"The Cafe was the perfect experience for me to be exposed to Spanish culture" Wright said. "I tried many new delicious foods."

This year, the club sold hearts to students as a part of their Valentine fundraiser.

"The Hall of Hearts was a great addition to Spanish Club," Junior Maryam Ali said. "I hope it can become an annual Spanish Club tradition"

Junior Tilaya Harris



Mr. Al Stoner and Junior Isaiah Broden

German/Russian Club

Sponsor: Mr. Al Stoner

Front row: Layla Owens, Leslie Christie, Sarah Bradash, Emily Gronli; Back row: Steven Cook, James Raddatz, Dennis Dombrowski, Vincent Latimore Jr.

English as a New Language Club
Sponsor: Ms. Dawn Czuba and Ms. Kathryn Gaines
Front row: Meagan Clarkson, Elizabeth Nino, Yasmin Yasin, Madeline Estrada; Second row: Ms. Czuba, Veronica Magallanes, Alexandra Dobrea; Third row: Destiny Felix, Chiamara Anokwute. Back row: Ms. Gaines.

Discovering new cultures with food and community service

English as a New Language has been a club for three years. With a busy schedule planning community service projects and fundraising projects, the members were still able to have some fun. The members tasted a variety of ethnic foods when they visited Gauchos Restaurant in Valparaiso, Aladdin Pita in Merrillville and Tandoor in Schererville. They also visited Brookfield Zoo during Spring Break.

"My favorite trip was when we went to Aladdin Pita because they had nice background music and the food was very good. The pita bread and humus was the best," Senior Alexandra Dobrea said.

ENL is for any student who has a background of two or more languages and who is or has been in any ESL, ENL or bilingual language program. Kids who have been in ENL or ESL thought it was important to remain connected with the people who were in their class, so they have meetings every Tuesday morning in Ms. Dawn Czuba's room to talk about community service projects, fundraising projects and their daily lives.

"I really liked it when we went to the Deluxe Inn Hotel for the homeless kids because we were able to talk to the kids and play with them," Senior Elizabeth Nino said. "It was a lot of fun, and seeing the kids have fun and smile was nice."

French Club broadens their horizons

From potluck dinners to fundraisers, the French Club members kept themselves busy.

About 20 members met once a month. The Club Sponsor Ms. Irene Spiro decided to move meetings to the morning in order to accommodate the students' busy schedules. Despite snow days, causing the club to reschedule a lot of the meetings, the members were able to discuss topics such as designing the club T-shirt.

"We wanted to design a shirt that truly represented us as a whole. We wanted to place a saying on the back that would cause others to ask what it meant. The saying means 'just because'. We tell this to our students when they ask a question about why something is the way it is," Ms. Spiro said.

The club had many events. They joined members from Spanish, German and Russian Clubs to host a potluck dinner.

"The students were able to broaden their horizons. They were able to make the world a little smaller and taste foods from different cultures," Ms. Spiro said.

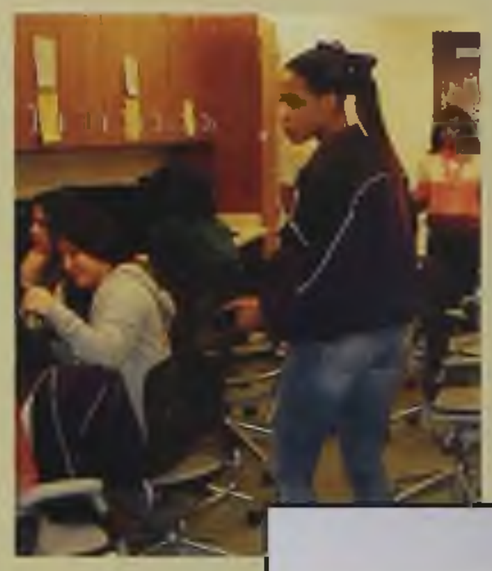
The students spent the year fundraising by selling candy bars and baked goods. They raised money in order to send the seniors on an end-of-the-year field trip. The money was also used to give a scholarship to the student who was sent overseas to France in the summer.

"I like taking the students on the field trip because they get a tiny taste of France," Ms. Spiro said. "The restaurant really makes you feel like you are there."

French Club
Sponsors: Mrs. Melissa Byerly and Ms. Irene Spiro
Front row: Katy Guzek, Kiera Shackelford; Second row: Domonique Smith, Crystal Lopez-De Lara, Ralaunda Bradshaw, Amy Harsma, Melissa Brayfield; Back row: Mrs. Byerly, Paris Stewart, Michael Shannon II, Darryl King, Ms. Spiro.

Sophomores Michael Shannon II and Melissa Brayfield

Pirate News Network
Adviser: Mr. Brian Past
Front row: Arriana Jimenez, Tajanee Griffin, Jessica Rodriguez, Cynthia Basu-Chavez, Rebecca Knight, Bianca Murphy; Second row: Aaron Fuller, Conor Shea, Whitney Reese, Mary Ann Wallace, Sierra Vasquez, Nathaniel McNary; Third row: Deon Jones Jr., Quanisha Vaughn, Rachel Galante, Tommye Nelson, Maggie Connelly, Erika McClinton; Back row: Mr. Past, Garrett Ferrell, Joshua DeLeon, John Irak IV, Demario Streeter, Mr. Josh Harvoth.



Senior Whitney Reese

Senior Deon Jones Jr.

PNN informs students through video production

The Pirate News Network takes on two different productions each week, which are the daily morning announcements and the Friday Show.

The Morning Show is a basic news production, which tells all students and faculty members what is in store for the day. The Friday show is a more advanced broadcast of PNN, consisting of class members and students outside the studio.

"Hours of filming and editing go into making the shows after school," Senior Maggie Connelly said.

Preparation for a show is required for a show to be successful. Every week, a project is assigned to a student, and the deadline is each Friday.

They must first come up with an opening and a closing for the show based off an original idea and begin to write a script and complete it by the deadline.

"When I prepare, I would like to do something very comedic involving the kids, because everyone wants to see themselves on TV," Junior Garrett Ferrell said.

Everyone who has been a part of the PNN course would highly recommend the class because of the involvement they show toward Merrillville High School.

"I would recommend this class because it's my favorite. My most favorite part is being able to contribute my ideas to the class," Connelly said.

Permanent Ink
Coach: Mr. Dave Hossler
Front row: Carolina Henderson, Antonia Miller, Aaliyah Hall, Daejah Scott; Second row: Jonathan Camper, Jahnari Pruitt, Brandon Long Jr.; Back row: Frederick Patterson, Paul Glover, Mr. Hossler; Not pictured: Rachel Galante, Xakilah Williamson, Destiny Chavers.

Permanent Ink provides outlet for young writers and poets

The young poets of Permanent Ink write and perform poems. The students performed at many events, including the Revue and the annual STAND Coffee House.

"We have a good amount of students on the team this year," Permanent Ink coach Mr. David Hossler said. "I teach them how to put personality and feeling into their poems when they write and perform them."

The students performed and competed at "Hotter than a Steel Mill" in Chicago.

"I had a good time at the competition," Junior Rachel Galante said. "It was cool seeing everyone else from other teams perform their poems and interact."

The Permanent Ink team came in first in the first round and second in the second round, and they did not proceed to the final round.

Freshman Jahnari Pruitt

Voices of Reason
Sponsor: Mrs. Pamela Schuetz
Front row: Quiana Moorehead, Tilaya Harris, Quanisha Vaughn; Second row: Ashley Benkert, Lacy Bridgeman, Shana Sams, Mrs. Schuetz; Back row: Eric Jackson Jr., Samuel Blackson, Isaiah Davis.

Junior Quanisha Vaughn

Junior Eric Jackson Jr.

Voices of Reason inspires with gospel music

This year, Voices of Reason came together to uplift their peers.

For many members, joining meant an opportunity to not only spread their faith but to utilize their vocal talents as well.

"I always knew I wanted to inspire and uplift people, so Voices of Reason was the perfect fit for me," Junior Eric Jackson said.

"Voices of Reason is about helping people through inspirational gospel music realize anything is possible through God," Junior Tilaya Harris said.

Their system of leadership resembled most other clubs in the school with a sponsor, president, vice president and secretary leading the way.

"The sponsor of our group is Mrs. Pamela Schuetz. Our president is, well, me," Jackson said. "Our vice president is Tilaya Harris, and our secretary is (Sophomore) Lacy Bridgeman."

The sponsor helped the students to strive and accomplish their goals

"I am there every practice, and I make suggestions. I make sure they are on task to accomplish goals for performances as well as keeping the leaders on task. I set up field trips, too," Mrs. Schuetz said.

Practices conducted by Jackson were held every Wednesday and consisted of warm-up exercises, introducing new music and assigning new parts.

Members went over the new material repeatedly until it was perfect for performances.

With a dedicated group of members, the Voices of Reason accomplished many goals this year.

"We have accomplished getting good singers and musicians together to perform in front of crowds at different events," Senior Keon Gibson said.

Some saw this group as an opportunity to try new things or to better the talent they already had.

"I joined this group because it was the perfect opportunity to practice singing," Bridgeman said.

Newspaper
Adviser: Mrs. Teresa Procter
Front row: Fernando Leon Jr., Yvonne Luna, Brandy Rzepczynski, Cassandra Govert; Second row: Jamie Bhe, Caitlinn Caddick, Nadia Duke, Angel Oyervides; Back Row: Thomas Jones, Michael Spidknall, Austin Brakley-Lain, Thomas Scolaro.

Mock Trial
Coach: Mrs. Alison Skertic
Front row: Jaia Montgomery, Morgan Lesich, Lauren Banks, Mrs. Skertic; Back row: Asianna Peterson, Ashley Benkert, David Lewis.

Mock Trial at the forefront of justice

During this season, Mock Trial refused to let conciliation and delays hinder them from doing their best. With their coach of two years, Mrs. Alison Skertic, leading the way, the team studied a case about a man who was accused of using performance-enhancing drugs.

"It is similar to the Barry Bonds case," Mrs. Skertic said. "He tries to say he was sabotaged, but he lied under oath."

One of the members, Junior Michele Johnson, joined to figure out whether or not she wanted to be a lawyer. To prepare for the matches, she watched trials and memorized all of her required information. She also practiced with her family. Her roles included the prosecutor and witness Brighton Early.

"This is my first year," Johnson said. "I think the hardest thing is cross-examination because I'm not mean, so I'm not used to it."

The team placed seventh out of eight teams at the Indiana Mock Trial Regional Competition. They scored 450 points out of 660. It was 50 points higher than last year. It was held at the Hammond Federal Court House. Mrs. Skertic said the team did better and were fairly close to the other teams.

Future Educators of America
Sponsor: Mrs. Kristina Musielak
Front row: Imani Campbell, Cassidy Koontz, Jada Shannon, Marissa Collins; Back row: William Akins III, Joshua DeLeon.

Quill & Scroll
Adviser: Mrs. Teresa Procter
Front row: Emily Gronli, Viridiana Carrillo, Christa Martin, Keristen Lucero, Sarah Bradash, Marissa Collins; Back row: Angelica Navarro, Ashton Anekwe, Cassandra Govert, Todd Douglas Jr., Timisha Ivie, Kennedy Nunn, Ashley Mendez; Not pictured: Jamie Bhe, Mariana Cantu, Ra'vyn Dickinson, Candace Howard.

Academic competition tests student knowledge of history

Each year, members of the Academic Decathlon team study a specific topic to prepare for competition.

The five members of the team focused on World War I in preparation for the January 25 regional competition. The team earned third place in the Oral Super Quiz.

Decathlete Junior Mam Samba said she performed better in English.

"I joined the team because it's a good look for college transcripts," Samba said. Samba also said that adequate time management skills and the ability to focus are good assets for the team to have.

The Decathletes were equipped with an informative binder of study materials.

"I read and highlighted important information as I went along," Third-year Decathlete Junior Sarah Bradash said.

Juniors Robert Jackson and Bradash both brought home three awards individually. Juniors Joseph Twitdy and Emily Gronli brought home two individual awards. Twitdy brought home a silver and bronze medal.

Academic Decathlon
Coaches: Mrs. Rachel Sonnenberg, Mr. Jason Sonnenberg
Front Row: Emily Gronli, Sarah Bradash; Back Row: Joseph Twitdy, Mrs. Sonnenberg, Mr. Sonnenberg.

Leading the way through innovation

Technology Student Association is a club in which students use various methods of problem solving.

The club is math-oriented and mainly for students who find enjoyment in equations and using problem-solving skills in correlation to technology.

Technology Student Association practice lasts only for a few days before the team competes in only one competition between other schools. The competition determines which of the schools has a better sense of problem solving and handling problems.

Technology Student Association
Sponsor: Mr. Bruce Curme
Front row: Mr. Curme, Michael Anderson.

Athletic Trainers
Sponsor: Mrs. Susan Hayes
Front row: Kennedy Wilck, Jacqueline DeLeon, Angelica Navarro, A'Leah Scott.

Academic Superbowl team takes on the American West and expansion

Members participating in Academic Superbowl study a new topic each school year. After the participants learn the topic, they spend the next few months preparing themselves for the competition.

The topic was the American West and Westward Expansion. Students who competed expanded their knowledge and showcased their intellectual abilities.

"They give a subject and then the students study off the content," English teacher Mr. Paul Unterfranz said.

Students were tested in five areas: English science, social studies, mathematics and fine arts. Each team has six squads. Each student is allowed to compete in two different areas.

The proctor asks each team questions and scores them for each correct answer.

Sponsors of this year's team were English teachers Mr. Paul Unterfranz and Ms. Debra Monix. The team's goal this year was to prepare for the upcoming study sessions and competitions.

Academic Superbowl
Coaches: Ms. Debra Monix and Mr. Paul Unterfranz
Front row: Kavitha Udumula, Illaha Abdul, Mam Samba, Courtney Chavez; Second row: Anna Davis, Reesie Woods III, Kathryn Jurczyk; Third row: Ms. Monix, David Hinton II, Torian Bryant, Mr. Unterfranz; Back row: Steffan Santiago, Robert Jackson.

Spell Bowl
Coach: Ms. Debra Monix
Front row: Sarah Bradash, Mam Samba, Emily Gronli, Madeline Estrada; Second row: Alexandra Dobrea, Reesie Woods, Landon Rosa; Third row: Mia Wahdan, Mckinley Boone; Back row: Ms. Monix, Robert Jackson, Halina Duke, Bethany Rochefort.

Spelling their way to the top

The Spell Bowl members strived to improve their spelling skills. The team was led by Ms. Debra Monix, who has been the sponsor for three years.

"My favorite part of the season was meeting and seeing all of these new faces, and it was good to see them do well," Mrs. Monix said.

At the competition, they have 10 people on each team. There were 10 rounds. The spellers then go up two at a time and the announcer says the words. The spellers then spell out the words They get 30 seconds. One of the team's spellers, Junior Sarah Bradash, scored a perfect.

"My favorite part of the season was the competitions," Junior Reesie Woods said. "Mrs. Monix was hilarious, and the team was hilarious."

The team had meetings twice a week. They met on Mondays and Tuesdays and studied words. They get the words from an online academic website. The words came out over the summer.

Chess Club pulls through despite disappointment

Without very many members attending meetings, the team still managed to pull through and attend competitions.

"The season did not pan out the way I wanted it to. We did not have enough members to make it to state," Coach Mr. Sean Meagher said.

Mr. Meagher said two of the outstanding members were Senior Darryl King and Junior James Raddatz.

"They attended every practice and improved a lot," Mr. Meagher said.

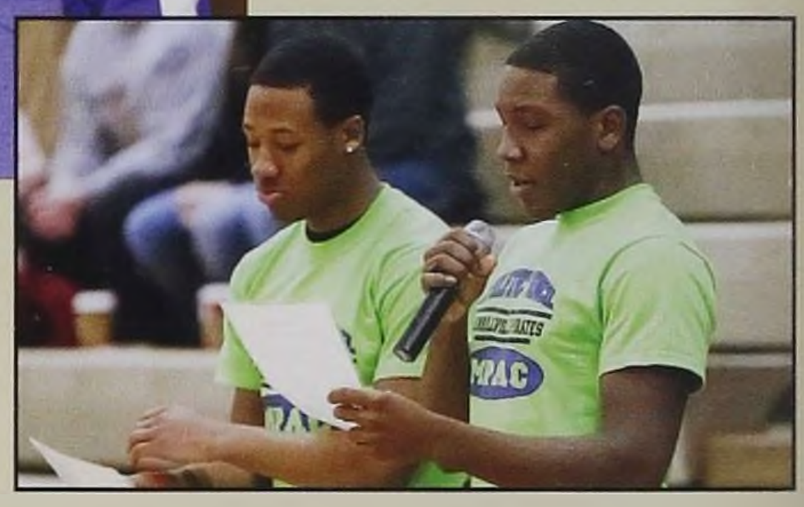
King said he joined chess because his main goal was to beat Mr. Meagher.

"I enjoyed playing chess as a pastime. It was something that I didn't get to do every day," King said.

Chess Club
Coach: Sean Meagher
Front row: Alana Charles, Kevin Weems, Ireon Smith, Second row: Darryl King, James Raddatz; Back row: Mr. Meagher.

Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council
Sponsor: Ms. Janis Qualizza
Front row: Tamera Julkes, Mariana Cantu, Michael Garza, David Osorio, Bethany Rochefort, Miguel Tapia; Second row: Kennedy Wildk, Whitney Reese, Terrance Grayson, Michael Robinson, Amber Dawning, Hannah Dixon, Montriel Shell, Taylor Woods; Third row: Myranda Harris, Tommye Nelson, Jaz Talley, Erika McClinton, Gregory Vega, Maggie Connelly, A'Leah Scott; Fourth row: Terry Jackson, Michael Johnson II, Alexander Begala, Jordan Stanley, Victoria Gaines; Back row: Kyle Krause, Bradley Brack.

Junior Tommye Nelson



Juniors Terry Jackson and Terrance Grayson

High expectations push Olympiad members to regional competition

Science Olympiad competed in 23 different events that cover five areas, including, biology, chemistry, earth science, physics and engineering.

"This year was great because we placed at regionals and came home with a trophy," Junior Yiqi Duan said.

The team went to an invitational, regional and wildcard competitions.

"At regionals, the top three teams go to state automatically, and the 4th- and 5th-place teams will go to a wildcard competition to fight for a spot at state," Coach Bruce Curme said.

With only 10 members this year, the Science Olympiad team was always looking for new students to join to help achieve their goal of going to state.

Debate team displays knowledge of public interest

The Debate Team simply argued public interests for scores. Debate is scored based on different categories on a scale of one through five.

To start the season off right, Debate Team Coach Mr. Alan Mizimakoski and Captain Junior Maryam Ali welcomed all of the new members to the team.

"It's fun being able to work with intelligent kids," Mr. Mizimakoski said.

With several ranks in the competition, members find their place through trial and error.

"There are many novice members in Debate because we just started not too long ago," Junior Crystal Cabrera said.

Though each member is expected to perform well, the team captain is held to another standard.

"It is difficult being captain because I am expected to be on a more advanced level than the other members," Ali said.

Debate Team
Coach: Mr. Alan Mizimakoski
Front Row: Maryam Ali, Crystal Cabrera, Brionna Charles; Back Row: Moniel Sanders, Caitlyn Soegiel, Joseph Twitdy, Mechai Sharks, Kayla Grant.

Quiz Bowl
Coach: Mrs. Melissa Sickinger
Front row: Michael Anderson, Joel Schwartz, Chiamara Anokwute; Back row: Caitlinn Caddick, Angelique Oyervides, Nadia Duke.

Trivia a Quiz Bowl specialty

Quiz Bowl, a Jeopardy-like quiz game, tests students on a variety of subjects pertaining to the year's theme. To prepare for the matches, Quiz Bowl coach Mrs. Melissa Sickinger asked the team random questions from previous matches

Senior Nadia Duke said she prepared by answering questions from the official Quiz Bowl website and learning different cultural facts.

"I make sure I pay attention to what the moderator is saying and the direction the question is going," Duke said. "I answered a lot more literature questions than previous years."

One of the best parts of being a part of a team is bonding and meeting new people.

"Being on Quiz Bowl is fun because I know most of the members," Senior Angelique Oyervides said, "and on the bus rides, we all talked a lot."

Science Olympiad
Coaches: Ms. Ronda Waters, Mr. Gary Schlinger, Mr. Bruce Curme
Front row: Emily Gronli, Yolanda Kelly; Second row: Yiqi Duan, Andrew Merced, Darryl King; Third row: Ralaunda Bradshaw, Marcus Miller, Arnold Sanchez, Jaia Montgomery; Back row: Ms. Waters, Mr. Schlinger, Mr.Curme.

Bible Club hopes for spiritual growth

Established in 2008, Bible Club started out as a prayer group that would meet in the mornings to take prayer requests from students.

"Bible Club has really started to blossom and grow. So far, we have participated in National Prayer at See You at the Pole, a college dodge ball tournament with other high school Bible Clubs. We have ministered to people in the mornings while giving out free donuts, and we have volunteered at the senior citizen home," Bible Cub President Junior David Lewis said.

Bible Club's mission was to Inspire peers and helped them grow spiritually.

"I love the discussions we have because it helped me to get closer to other members and God," Member Junior Marguerite Culbreath said.

Bible Club had meetings every Wednesday in the Arena and every Thursday in Sponsor Mr. Dan Moslander's room.

Bible Club
Sponsor: Mr. Dan Moslander
Front row: Ashley Walton, Da'Ja'Nay Askew, Katherine Light, Kayla Grant, Moniel Sanders, Quanisha Vaughn; Second row: Ashley Benkert, Jada Shannon, Asianna Peterson, Angelica Navarro, Michele Johnson; Third row: Huldah Ohiani-Jegede, Lawrence Williams, Arion Walton, Joshua DeLeon, David Lewis, Antonio Cornelius Jr.; Back Row: Jordan Baldwin, Marcus Castro.

Junior David Lewis

Junior Kayla Grant

Art Club
Sponsor: Mrs. Janet Anderson
Front row: Leslie Christie, Jennifer Gaines, Tierney Cook, Kayla Johnson-Owens, Sandra Gresham, Bianca Cardenas; Second row: Kianna Reed, Krysta Thomas, Israel Akinbobuyi, Dashanee' Hunter, Whitney McGilll; Third row: Mrs. Anderson, Julianne Roberts, Jahnari Pruitt, Isaiah Alleyne, Marrisa McClelland; Back row: Johnathon Arce, Henry Akinbobuyi, Julian Andrews, Kevin Weems.

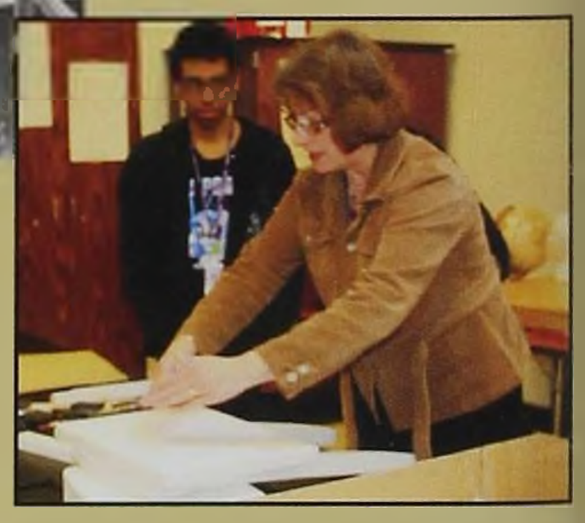
Students help community through art

As members of Art Club, students improved their artistic skills through working on projects for the school and the community. The projects included helping other clubs with decorations, such as Key Club for its carnival, and Chili Cook-off. Another project the Art Club did was Cherish the Children. Members designed a child's-size chair that in their opinion artistically represents what it means to cherish our community's children. Entries were displayed at the Indiana Visitor's Center during the month of April for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Students also painted the teachers' lounge.

"Teachers wanted something relaxing, something peaceful that helps them focus on getting to their retirement," Sponsor Ms. Janet Anderson said. Members chose a beach scene. One of the final projects of the year for the Art Club was Spa Day. Spa Day was held at Methodist Hospitals. It provided breast cancer patients and survivors an opportunity to be educated and pampered. Different schools submitted up to five different pieces, and cancer patients vote on whose artwork was the best.

"I inspire my students by telling them every project we do is for a good cause. It raises awareness for special causes," Ms. Anderson said.

Junior Israel Akinbobuyi



Mrs. Janet Anderson and Junior Julian Andrews

Youth Alive
Sponsor: Mr. Alan Branda
Front row: Alexis Deter, Krysta Thomas, Victoria Miller, Angelica Navarro; Back row: Marcus Miller, Mr. Branda, Adam Tapper.

Society of Student Authors
Sponsor: Mrs. Melissa Sickinger
Front row: Domonique Smith, Kiera Shackelford, Demesha Kelly, Rebekah Mongold; Back row: Cynthia Hindmon Dennis Dombrowski.

Bowling Team
Coaches: Deon Jones Sr. and Joseph Witkowski
Front Row: Ashlee Luttinen, Alysha Holley, Meagan Clarkson;
Back Row: Michael Johnson, Dale Holley.

Thespians inspire with performing arts

Talented students interested in the performing arts join the Thespian Club. Mr. Thomas Mackey, Thespian Club sponsor, said that the club's performances are based on community service, and each member agrees to the mandate that every member has to perform community service.

Kids on the Block, a community service project for the last several years, puts the Thespians in the elementary schools to educate the younger students about the importance of safe and supportive environments. They used a set of life-like puppets and skits to illustrate the themes of bullying, decision-making and the negative effects of stereotyping.

The Merrillville Education Foundation awarded the group a $1,933 grant to purchase new puppets.

"Little kids identify with puppets better than a lecture," Mr. Mackey said.

Another major event on the Thespian Club's schedule was "The Revue." Performing Arts students auditioned and performed.

"I've always loved theater. That's why I joined the Thespian Club," Thespian Club President Senior Joshua DeLeon said.

DeLeon joined the club his sophomore year.

"It was better than what I expected it to be," DeLeon said. "I love everything I've experienced in the Thespian Club."

Deleon said he was part of a group of MHS students who competed in the Tech Olympics and the filmmaking competitions at the State Thespian Festival.

"It was a very well-put-together show," DeLeon said.

Sophomore Casllie Scott was another member of the Thespian Club.

"I like entertaining people," she said. "I can make people laugh easily, and I express myself on stage."

Scott performed at the state festival and said she plans to go to college to major in drama theatre production.

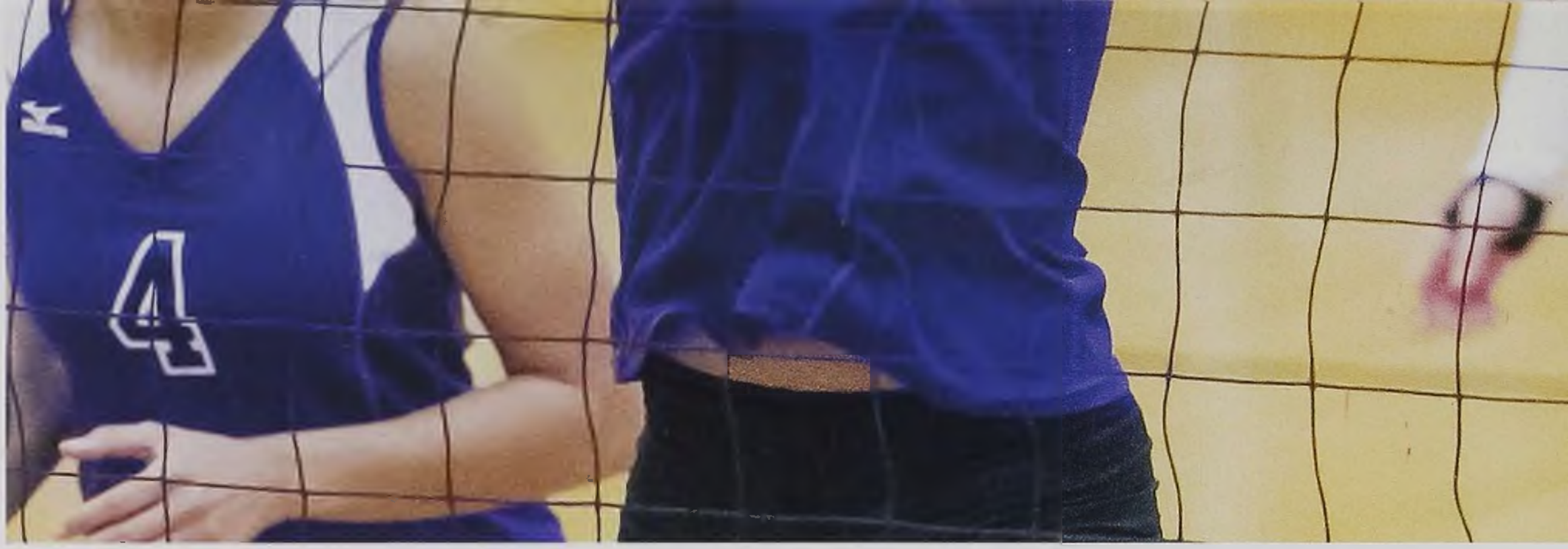
"State was really good," she said. "It was a wonderful experience. I've never been around so much talent. I want to be one of those people one day."

Thespian Society
Director: Mr. Thomas Mackey
Front row: Cassidy Koontz, Cree Smith, Megan Austin, Joshua DeLeon, Jada Shannon; Second row: Cynthia Hindmon, Karla DeLeon, Samantha Keith, Anna Davis, David Osorio, Morgan Lesich, Thomas Novak Jr.; Third row: Hope Krajnak, Christina Nilsson, Nia Wells, Jacob Reinhart, Jakobe Edmond, Kathryn Jurczyk, Christopher Howard; Fourth row: Michael Shannon, Yolanda Kelly, Megan Mays, Isaac Graham, Nana Asabere, Tyreak Thomas; Back row: Mr. Mackey, John Irak IV., Domonique Lambert, William Akins III.

As he runs the curve with Seniors Marcus Jones and Reginald Turner, Junior Michael Johnson tries to get to the finish line. "My goal was to make it out to regionals," Johnson said. During the off season, Johnson runs cross country, which helps him stay in shape for track.

Working at her desk, Athletic Director Janis Qualizza fills out a MCSC Golf Outing Foursome. "I've been the athletic director for 37 years, and before that, I was the assistant to the director for 4 years," she said.

Celebrating a big win against the LaPorte Slicers, Sophomore Erika McClinton poses for a picture with her teammates. "I felt like I was on top of the world," McClinton said. One of McClinton's season goals was to win sectionals, and the team achieved it.



With both hands in the air, Senior Myranda Harris prepares to block the ball. "I started to play volleyball just so I can stay in shape for basketball, but I ended up liking it," she said. Harris has been playing volleyball since she was in the 7th grade. She won Most Va'uable Player both her junior and senior year.

Harris shines in classroom and on court

Motivated. Inspiring. Caring.

These are words that girls' basketball Coach Amy Govert used to describe Senior Myranda Harris. One of four valedictorians to earn a 4.0 grade point average, Harris played two sports.

"I am a part of National Honor Society, Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council, volleyball and basketball," Harris said.

During Harris's junior and senior year, she earned the Most Valuable Player honor for volleyball and the Sportsmanship Award for basketball.

"She is very dedicated and self-motivated. She always gave 100 percent at practices and games," Coach Govert said. "She never missed a practice and was willing to do what we asked to make the team better."

Harris suffered knee damage during her junior year and injured her rotator cuff and shoulder and suffered a concussion during her senior year.

Despite these challenges, Harris was pushed through to be successful, but not without great sacrifice.

"I struggled with any math class I've ever taken and the term paper," she said. "I had a choice of either staying up late to finish my homework, wake up early in the morning to do it, or I would do it on the bus on our way to games."

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill rewarded Harris with a full four-year scholarship. She also received the IHSSA Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship, the first Merrillville athlete to be presented with the prestigious award.

"I feel honored that all my hard work has paid off," Harris said.

"My mom is my inspiration and I just wanted to make her proud of me."

Harris ended her high school career with seven athletic letters. She was honored with the MHS four-year Scholar Athlete Award along with the Duneland Athletic Conference scholar award.

"I have never been prouder of any player I had come through the program," Coach Govert said. "We always preached academics first, and she was an example."

Left: While tightly gripping the football, Junior Terrance Grayson pushes off South Bend's Senior linebacker Richard Swanson (4). "My brother is my biggest motivation," Grayson said. Grayson's favorite part of being on the football team is the fact that he can play with his teammates and friends. Above: Taking a leap, Senior Abdul-Raqib Cox reaches for an interception. "Merrillville is an underestimated football team by other schools, but we try to prove them wrong," Cox said. Right: With eyes focused on an opening spot on the field, Senior Nicholas Hayes carries the ball. "My goal this year is to go all the way," Hayes said.

Most Valuable Player

Leadership

Most Valuable Lineman

Most Valuable Skill Player

Most Improved

Mr. ZIP

Most Valuable Special Teams Player

Tyrie Fuller

Ryan Neal

Thomas Scalaro

Jonathon Robinson

Darnell Robinson

Joel Martin

Tyreese Jones

In the game against South Bend Clay, Sophomore Demond Wilkins Jr. carries the ball down the field. To focus before the game, Wilkins said he listens to motivational speeches. "Getting used to the faster pace of varsity football is my biggest struggle," Wilkins said. He is the starting quarterback on the varsity team.

To push through to the end zone, Senior Bryant Isabell fights his way down the field. "Being a part of this team is a real honor, and rocking it to state is our goal," Isabell said. Isabell is the starting running back on the 2013 football team.

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
South Bend Clay	W	41-7
Andrean	L	34-32
Crown Point	W	14-13
Portage	W	31-17
Michigan City	W	56-9
LaPorte	W	34-13
Valparaiso	W	35-8
Lake Central	W	20-17
Chesterton	W	31-7
Sectional	L	31-0

Season Record: 8-2

New beginnings

With a new year, a new class and a diverse selection of football players, the Pirates had big plans to improve each day and go far into the season. The season kicked off with a big win against South Bend Clay.

The school population at Merrillville has grown over the years, which caused the team to move up from Class 5A to 6A.

"This year's team is a good blend of experienced players and talented guys who are getting their first taste of varsity football," Coach Brian Parker said.

"This football season, we have a lot of first-year starters that are new to the Friday night lights. We have potential to go far in the playoffs." Senior wide receiver Craig Burns (6) added.

The big game against the Pirates' rival, the Crown Point Bulldogs, was a game that kept the fans on the edges of their seats. The Pirates had a rough start, but they managed to come through with a win.

"Our game against Crown Point was my season highlight because I caught the game-winning interception," Senior wide receiver Derrin Funches (2) said.

The Pirates' Homecoming game against the LaPorte Slicers was a bittersweet victory. The Pirate family honored Jacob West, the LaPorte linebacker who had died earlier in the week. Before the game, players and fans observed a moment of silence. After the game, team captains, Seniors Bryant Isaac (30), Joel Martin (26), Kyan Neal (20) and Tyrie Fuller (10) presented a flag with West's jersey number to the LaPorte team. The flag had flown in the south end zone during the game.

"It was our Homecoming game, but it's just that playing a game that night was one of the things that you want to do, but everybody involved, from administration to players, held themselves together and did something that Jake West would have wanted everybody to do," Coach Parker said.

Coaches and players agree that mental toughness, self-drive and the ability to overcome challenges all play a huge part in the football game. Many challenges were thrown at the team, but they didn't let that stop them.

"It's hard because of the adversity of going from semi-state to now. Plus we have some injuries, but we can overcome it. We're a strong team with good chemistry," Neal (20) said.

The team played the last two games against Lake Central and Chesterton, fighting for the title of Duneland Athletic Conference (DAC) champions for the third year in a row.

"We are outright DAC champs. For the past years, we had to share the title. This year, the title is fully ours," Senior linebacker Ronnie Giles (42) said.

The Pirates lost to the Lake Central Indians during the first game of sectionals.

"The field conditions were horrible. I wasn't able to play to my full ability because I slipped out of every play," Senior linebacker Darrell Robinson (35) said.

After punting the ball, Sophomore Jacob Covaciu sends the ball past Andrean's Junior running back Hansley Hayes (44) deep into Andrean territory. "My season highlight was the second quarter kick that I had during the Portage game," Covaciu said. This season is Covaciu's first year on varsity.

With arms stretched high, Junior Jonathon Robinson reaches to catch the football. "This year's football team is young, but capable of doing even better things than last year," Robinson said. During the off-season, Robinson works out with fellow teammates to stay in shape.

Team works to improve record

Determined to do better than previous years, the volleyball players prepared to treat every game like a championship. The team focused on achieving a good record and working together.

"I feel that this year's team is very athletic when working in mental and physical harmony," Senior Mariah Marcano said.

When statistics from this year were compared to the past two years, the team succeeded in posting a better record. The team players felt that the keys to their success were getting along with each other and working together.

"Sometimes we argue because we are around each other too much, but we drop the problems quickly," Senior Riana Todd said.

Every team would love to win, but the team was prepared to deal with a loss whenever the situation occurred. The players tried to go into each game with a positive attitude and leave with the same mindset.

"It doesn't matter if we win or lose as long we went out there and played as hard as possible," Junior Victoria Gaines said

In the first game of sectionals, the team suffered a loss to Crown Point of 3-0.

"I felt horrible," Senior Ashley Hansbury said. "I cried as soon as the last ball hit the ground."

Eyes on the ball, Senior Ashley Hansbury goes for the pass. "I decided to join a volleyball team because I was good at it and it came easy to me," Hansbury said. Hansbury said her personal goals were to prepare the team to beat the number-one team, to advance past sectionals by giving a motivational speech and to prove everybody wrong about the size of the volleyball team.

With 643 assists for the season, Senior setter Riana Todd jump sets to the outside. "It's such an honor being captain and being recognized as being a leader," Todd said. "I also lead by example." To help her team advance past sectionals, Todd said she worked harder and played more aggressively during games.

Left: Determined to get a kill, Junior Victoria Gaines jumps at the net. "I listen to music, eat and meditate to prepare myself for the game," Gaines said. Right-side hitter Gaines said she prepared for the season with summer conditioning to get into shape. Above: The team leader in service attempts, Sophomore Maya Griffin prepares for the attack. "I prepared for my games by working out my arms and running to make sure my legs are warmed up," Griffin said. Griffin said she wanted to improve her serve and her ability to find holes in the opponent's defense. Right: Leading the team with 177 kills, Senior outside hitter Miranda Harris aims to hit the ball against Washington Township. A captain, Harris said she felt that they all took on leadership roles during close, competitive games. "Our biggest school competition would have to be Lake Central," Harris said. Advancing past sectionals and ranking higher in the DAC were Harris's goals.

Q: Why do you think you won this award?
Harris: I worked hard over the summer and the season. I also tried to get better.
Q: What contributions have you made to the team this year?
Harris: I tried to be a good leader and coach the younger girls for the future.

Most Valuable Player

Miranda Harris

Most Improved

Todd

Q: Why do you think you won this award?
Todd: I think I won because I changed my style of play this year, and I came in with a different mentality.
Q: What contributions have you made to the team this year?
Todd: I worked a lot on my setting and made my set better for my team. I also tried to be a leader.

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Griffith	W	3-0
Lowell	L	3-2
Calumet Christian	L	3-1
Andrean	L	3-1
Portage	W	3-2
Michigan City	W	3-1
Valparaiso	L	3-0
Kankakee Valley Classic	L	2-0
Washington Township	L	3-2
LaPorte	L	3-0
Lake Central	L	3-0
Chesterton	L	3-0
Crown Point	L	3-1
Wheeler	W	3-0
Portage	L	3-0
Michigan City	W	3-0
Valparaiso	L	3-0
LaPorte	L	3-1
Hammond Bishop Noll	L	3-2
Lake Central	L	3-0
Hanover Central	W	3-1
Chesterton	L	3-1
Crown Point	L	3-0
Sectional	L	3-0

Season Record: 6-17

To celebrate after a kill, Juniors Morgan Harris and Victoria Gaines embrace each other. To prepare for the season, Harris completed intense summer conditioning. "Summer workouts were hard," Harris said. "The gym was about 100 degrees, but I always gave 100 percent."

In the middle front, Junior Jaz Talley hits the ball over the net and goes for a kill. Talley said she prepared for games by playing and doing her best. "I want to continue improving and get better as the season goes by," Talley said. A personal goal for Talley was to improve her stats.

Left: First-year runner Junior Justin Johnson rues to the finish line. "I run cross country because it helps to build endurance, and I wanted to try something new," Johnson said. Johnson rolled his ankle, and it bothered him most of the season. Above: Using his last burst of energy, Junior Michael Johnson II focuses on finishing the race. "We practice about 16 hours a week," he said. "Away from the team I have to eat right, and I work out at home." Johnson set a personal best of 18:02 at the Lowell Invite. "He truly loves to run," said Coach Mike Hoffman. Johnson finished 36th out of 72 runners at the Crown Point Sectional. Right: With more than three years of experience, Junior Brandon Hurson advances toward the finish line in a 5K race. "I have been running cross country since middle school, but I became serious about it my freshman year," he said. Coach Hoffman said Hurson "worked hard over the summer and has been one of our top runners." Finishing right after teammate Junior Miguel Tapia, Hurson placed 18th at the Crown Point Sectional. He placed 32nd at regionals and advanced to New Prairie Semi-State as an individual.

Most Valuable Runner

Conor Hill

Leadership

Miguel Tapia

Sportsmanship

Marcus Jones

Most Improved

Brandon Hurson

In a meet against Valparaiso and Portage, Junior Miguel Tapia runs a 5K race. Tapia had a personal best of 17:10 at the Lowell Invite. "I try to make each practice a race," Tapia said. Coach Mike Hoffman said Tapia, a first-year runner, "works hard every day. This hard work has paid off. He has been our number one or number two runner all season." Tapia placed 17th in sectionals at Crown Point High School. He ran 17:51 at regionals and advanced as an individual to semi-state.

Now in his second year on the team, Sophomore Deandre Minnion pushes himself to finish the race. "You have to be the fastest guy on the team to be successful," he said. Minnion's personal record of 19:13 at the Highland Invite was almost two minutes quicker than the pace he set as a freshman.

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Lake Central Invite		5th of 6
Lake Central	L	15-50
Tri-Meet		
Portage	L	15-50
Valparaiso	L	15-50
Lowell Invitational		9th of 19
Tri-Meet		
Chesterton	L	15-50
LaPorte	L	15-50
New Prairie Invite	L	21st of 29
Tri-Meet		
Crown Point	L	16-47
Michigan City	L	22-33
Highland Invitational		3rd of 23
DAC		8th of 8
Sectional		5th of 11
Regional		6th of 10

The need for speed

Entering a new season, the boys' Cross Country team focused on getting better. The ggest improvements started at practice.

Hard work in practice will give them good races" Coach Mike Hoffman said.

Coach Hoffman's goal for the team was for every team member to improve oughout the year. Junior Miguel Tapia achieved his biggest goal throughout the ason.

I dropped a minute and 40 seconds since the season started," Tapia said.

Along with improvements, athletes were motivated to push harder through races. oach Hoffman talked about getting better every day in practice.

Seeing my teammates get better made me want to improve and get a better ne" said Hurson.

Hurson's lowest time for the 5K was 17:33.

Senior Conor Hill said he was kept motivated by the feeling of accomplishment. Hill s been running since he was in fifth grade.

We ve made more improvements as a team, and after losing a good teammate at graduated last year, we had to come together as a stronger and better team." ll said.

The team placed eighth in the DAC. They advanced past sectionals by placing fifth. e season ended with placing sixth in regionals.

Although he battled shin problems all season, Junior Bradley Salka tries to pass his opponents. "As I run, I try to focus on who is in front of me and how I can pass them," Salka said. He said he always races hard to break 18 minutes. At the Crown Point Sectional, Salka placed 26th out of 72 runners.

Trying to sweat off the pressure, Senior Logan Glover runs a race during his last season as a high school runner. Glover has been running cross country for two years. "The biggest challenge in cross country is consistency," Glover said. He set his personal record of 19:37 at the Lowell Invite.

Runners go the extra mile

While they focused on meeting their end of the season goals the girls' Cross Country team worked on their bonds with each other and tried to get used to the changes that took place with the new coach in the picture.

Coach Patrick Coffey joined the staff and became the new coach for the team.

"It's going well being the new coach. It's nice to see success from the girls. I enjoy mixing it up between the girls and boys because the collaboration is going really well. Other than that, the girls are working really hard, and they are good people, so it's nice," Coach Coffey said.

The change Coach Coffey brought to the team was getting them in better shape to meet their goals.

"By the end of the season, I'm planning on having a time under 25 minutes," Junior Khandi King said.

Junior Anna Feliciano eventually advanced to semi-state along with Senior Tamera Julkes.

"My goals for the end of the season are to advance to semi-state individually and with the team, and I also want to break the school record," Feliciano said.

As a team, the girls had a few bonding challenges, but they eventually worked together.

"It was bad. At first, no one really liked each other, but we talked things out," Feliciano said.

"We don't always get along, but at the end of the day, we're one big family," King said.

The girls also had to face the challenges that came along with their new coach.

"I would say the challenges we've faced as a team would be adapting to our new coach and the different workouts," Junior Claret Diaz said.

"It seems like the training is different because I brought weightlifting into the program and they haven't done that at practice before," Coach Coffey said.

The team ended their season with a 1-6 record.

"We had to get used to new and harder workouts, but they helped us become stronger and better," Junior Anna Feliciano said. Feliciano has run cross country for six years and reached a personal best of 20:36. "I prepare by setting goals to know what I have to do and taking care of myself," Feliciano said. She advanced to semi-state with a time of 21:26.

Motivated to push forward, Junior Moniel Sanders heads toward the finish line. "Before meets I pray really hard for the team and I sing uplifting songs," Sanders said. In her first year, Sanders encouraged the team before meets and tried to keep their spirits lifted. "I'm the Prayer Warrior of the team. I always pray before meets," Sanders said.

Left: Physically prepared to race, Junior Kayleigh Champion runs her 3.1 miles for a home meet. "Cross country is not as bad as you think. It may be hard, but when you're done with the race, it feels amazing," Champion said. Champion has competed for two years in cross country. She advanced to regionals with a time of 24:27. Above: As she strides with her head up high, Sophomore Ashley Walton tries to keep her spot in the race. "To prepare myself, I eat right, drink a lot of water. I also train and do easy runs to get my body ready before the season starts," Walton said. Walton prepared herself in order to get past mind tricks and to push past pain. She achieved a time of 21:50 in 4th place. She advanced to regionals with a time of 22:52. Right: As her arms swing in a fluid motion, Sophomore Aryana Randall runs to complete her laps. "I worked hard and conditioned before the season started," Randall said. She spent her practices lifting weights and running three miles to improve her abilities.

Most Valuable Runner

Tamara Julkes

Leadership

Anna Feltcare

Sportsmanship

Claret Diaz

Most Improved

Kayleigh Champion

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Rudy Skorupa Invite		6th of 6
Lake Central	L	15-49
Tri Meet		
Portage	L	15-50
Valparaiso	L	15-46
Lowell Invite		7th of 16
Tri Meet		
LaPorte	L	15-47
Chesterton	L	15-50
New Prairie Invite		19th of 26
Tri Meet		
Crown Point	L	18-44
Michigan City	W	18-44
Highland Invitational		3rd of 12
DAC Varsity/ JV		7th of 8
Sectional		7th

Season Record: 1-6

Inside the team's group, Junior Kiandi King starts the race off easy. "I sweat hard through the summer every day. During practice, [Coach Mikel Hoffman] worked us to our abilities to make us better," King said. During the season, King was injured due to stressed tendons. Her goals for the season were to make sure her body was healthier in order to remain uninjured.

As she runs a steady pace, Senior Tamara Julkes tries to do her best at a meet. "I set my pace by not sprinting at the beginning of the race, and I like to relax and try to keep a good pace through the second mile," Julkes said. For her last year, Julkes made a personal best of 20:43. She advanced to semi-state with a time of 21:02.

Left: Before passing the ball to teammate Senior Ryan Sota, Senior captain Joshua Jones secures possession of the ball. He has been playing soccer for the past five years. "I was determined to make my senior year my best," Jones said. Above: As he escapes the Chesterton defender, Senior captain Ryan Sota looks to pass the ball to another player up the field. "I knocked the kid off the ball and was looking for someone to pass it to," Sota said. Right: In an attempt to score, Senior Jose Gonzales attempts to head the ball in during the game against Anderson. "I found the ball and headed it, but it didn't go in," he said. This was Gonzalez's second year on the team, and he was pleased with the improvements he made.

Most Valuable Player

Bradley Brack

Leadership

Josh Jones

Sportsmanship

Chiamara Anokwute

Most Improved

Jeremiah Jones

During a game against Andrean early in the season, Senior Gabriel Carbajal takes a shot on goal. "I get nervous when we're huddled up and ready to play, but once the game actually starts, I know what I have to do," Carbajal said. Carbajal has been playing for 12 years and said he was pleased with his final season as a Pirate.

With eyes locked, Senior Chiamara Anokwute clears the ball to get it out of the defensive area. Anokwute, who has been playing since he was nine, said he has enjoyed being a Pirate. "Chiamara is very vocal and is definitely one of the leaders on the team," Coach Brian Post said.

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Portage	L	4-2
Andrean	L	4-0
LaPorte	L	2-1
Kankakee Valley	W	3-1
Chesterton	L	5-2
Hoosier Cup Tournament		
S. Bend Adams	W	1-0
Floyd Central	T	1-1
Bloomington South	L	3-1
Valparaiso	L	3-0
Munster	L	2-0
Michigan City	W	3-1
Hobart	T	0-0
Crown Point	L	2-0
West Lafayette	L	1-0
Lafayette Jefferson	T	0-0
Lake Central	W	4-2
Lowell	W	2-0
Sectionals	L	5-0

Season Record: 5-10-3

Team sees improvement

After the loss of 16 seniors, the boys' Soccer Team's main goal this season was to gain their chemistry back and have a successful season.

"At the beginning of the season the team was rough, but I am proud of the seniors stepping up in leading the younger guys. They are very determined," Coach Brian Past said.

Advancing beyond sectionals was foremost in the players' heads, but the team lost 3-0 in the first round against Crown Point.

"It was a rough game, but we are very happy with the outcome of our season," senior offensive midfielder Ryan Sato said.

The players said they had many good games, and the Lake Central game was the highlight of the season for the coach and the players.

"The Lake Central game was important to us because we considered it a signature win," Coach Past said. "There are games you feel you are supposed to win, and then there are games you hope you can win. We had not beaten Lake Central since 2002."

The team had not won a conference game in two years, but they won two this year.

"The victory over Lake Central meant we were on the right track to improving our overall soccer program and that our hard work in practice is beginning to pay off with victories against quality opponents," Coach Past noted. "The fact we won in dramatic fashion, in a penalty kick shootout, was the icing on the cake."

Ending this year losing another nine seniors, the underclassmen say they have a big responsibility to step up and show their new teammates what is needed to have a positive season once again.

"My biggest advice for the underclassmen is to take it seriously," Junior goalkeeper Bradley Brack said, "and stay focused before the game."

Protecting the goal, Junior captain Bradley Brack catches the ball midair. Brack has been playing soccer since he was four and was named the best goalie in Northwest Indiana. "I don't get nervous when the ball comes my way, but I feel the pressure when it's a close game," Brack said.

To keep the ball on the offensive side, Senior Jacob Carey heads the ball up the field to his teammates. Carey started playing his freshman year and has loved the impact soccer has made on his high school career. "I loved every minute of it," he said.

Goals define season

Before the season began, the girls Soccer Team set three goals: to get in shape, to win eight games and to win sectionals. Throughout the season, the coaches and players kept these goals in mind.

To get in shape, summer conditioning consisted of running and agility training to develop their stamina. With their high energy, the team hoped to fire out other teams.

Most of the players also participate in other sports to stay in shape.

"I have always been a runner, and in middle school, I was able to do both cross country and soccer," Sophomore Erica Dixon said. "This is how the team continues to stay in shape even when the season is over."

Goal number two was to win eight games. The team finished the season 5-11-1. Though the team failed to accomplish this goal, team members were still proud of their effort.

"It felt good to know that we were that close. It took a lot of hard work as a team. Knowing we came that close was a real good feeling and makes us ready for next year," Sophomore captain Symantha Croy said.

"Win or lose, I am still proud of the girls," Assistant Coach Jason Kendera said. Sectionals took place at Crown Point and the Pirates lost to Kankakee Valley 5-0 in the first round.

Sectionals came after senior night had been cancelled the week before. Senior captain Shaquita Dillard said she felt this was the reason sectionals did not go the way that they hoped.

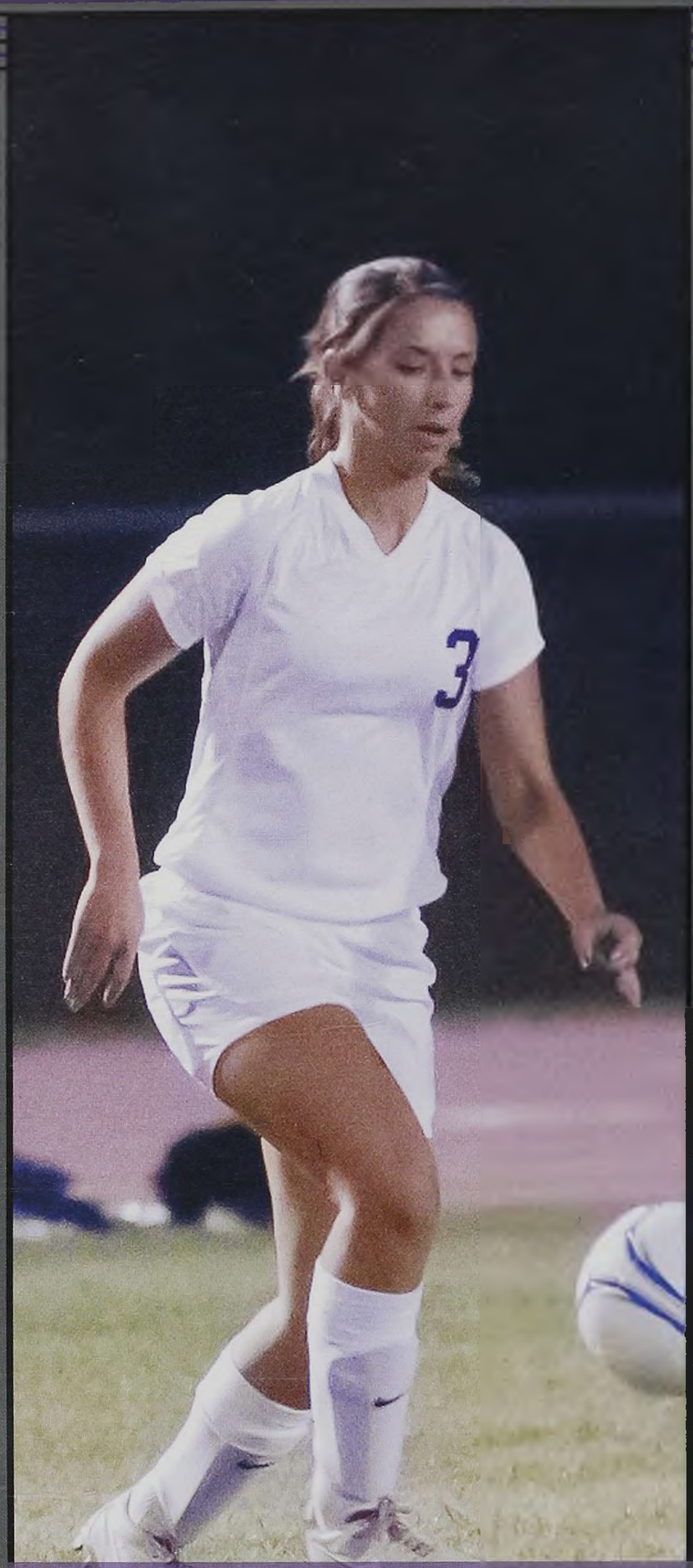
"The lack of heart towards the end of the season was our downfall. When people tell us we are going to lose, we start to believe it," Dillard said. "If senior night had happened, we would have been pumped up enough to try harder at sectionals."

"All in all, we could have been better," Senior Cassandra Govert said. "but with injuries that some players sustained throughout the season, all of us couldn't play at the time."

Senior Adrianne Marquez played throughout high school, but she suffered knee injuries during her junior and senior years that limited her playing time.

"I was distraught emotionally because it held me back from finding out my true potential," Marquez said, "but it won't stop me from pursuing soccer in college."

"This season's team is senior-strong," Coach Kendera said. "This is a blessing and curse because the rest of the team are very young players, but I feel the young players are very strong and a [illegible] group."



Focused on the game, Senior Kirsten Wiley keeps the ball in play. Wiley said her inspiration comes from her teammates. "The best part about the team is its family-like atmosphere," she said.

With the ball in her possession, Junior Rebecca Knight prepares to score a goal. Knight, who has been playing JV for two years, said she hopes to move up to full varsity next season. "I think that if I work harder and get stronger, I'll definitely be on varsity next year," she said.

Left: Determined to win, Senior Rachael Humes steals the ball from LaPorte's Maci Llewellyn (12). Humes prepared for the season by playing indoor soccer and working out in the weight room. "I knew that I had to become stronger and increase my speed for a successful season," Humes said. Middle: With hands clutched, Senior Hannah Dixon kicks the ball upfield. Dixon has been playing varsity for three years and will miss being a part of the team. "I really love being on the team. By the end of the season we're all really close," Dixon said. "No matter what we do, win or lose, we're a team." Right: Eyes focused toward the goal line, Senior Shequida Dillard kicks the ball. Dillard's goal for the season as co-captain is to advance past sectionals. "The team this year is very skilled and has great chemistry, so I believe we can achieve this goal," Dillard said.

Hannah Dixon

Leadership

Most Valuable Player & Sportsmanship

Shaquita Dillard

Most Improved

Erica Dixon

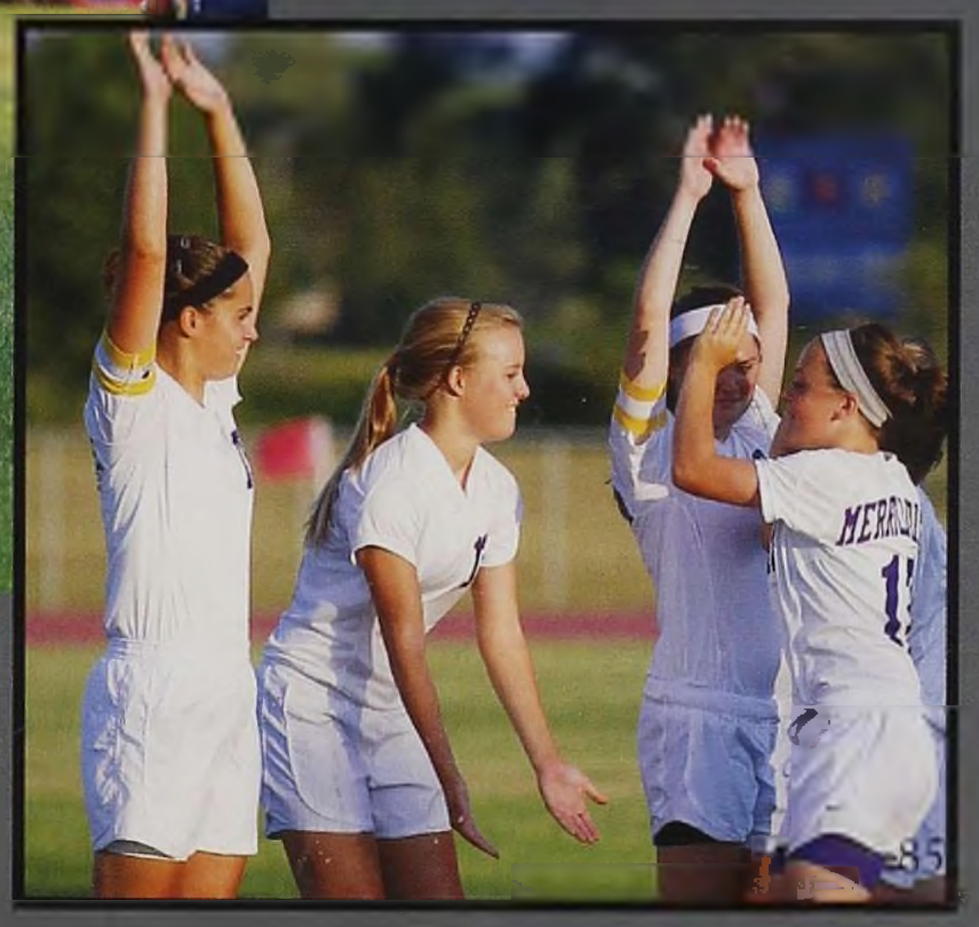
SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Portage	W	4-1
LaPorte	W	1-0
Highland	L	1-0
Wheeler	L	2-0
Chesterton	L	4-0
Kankakee Valley	L	8-0
Lowell	T	1-1
Valparaiso	L	8-0
Andrean	L	1-0
Griffith	W	4-0
Morgan Township	L	1-0
Michigan City	W	6-1
Crown Point	L	5-0
Munster	L	6-2
Lake Central	L	3-1
Sectional	L	5-0

Season Record: 4-11

Before the game, Sophomore Erica Dixon exchanges hand slaps with her teammates. Dixon, a first-year varsity player, has been playing since age six. "I just really love this team," Dixon said. "We're basically family. The team this year is one of the best I've been part of."

Running toward the ball, Sophomore Erica McClinton tries to gain possession. McClinton has been playing for 13 years and was able to play on varsity for the first time as a defender. "My number one goal for the season is to become a great defender," she said.



Left: While pulling his arms back, Junior Micah Burgstahler prepares to swing his racket. "We spend two weeks conditioning. We practice hitting and we run for 30 minutes," Burgstahler said. Burgstahler won five matches and has played tennis for five years. Above: As he runs for the ball, Senior Ronald Mayersky lobs the ball back over the net. "This year went better than I thought it would. We made it to regionals for the first time this year," Mayersky said. Mayersky played on the team for four years and played tennis since third grade. "My older brother also played tennis. I just kind of fell into it," he said. Right: Bent down to hit the ball back, Senior Robert Taylor keeps his focus on the ball. "Before matches, I try to visualize what I should do on the court," Taylor said. Taylor won five matches, three of them was for varsity. "This year really has been a lot better than last. I think the team will improve over the years," Taylor said.

Most Valuable Player

Nygel Jackson

Leadership

Robert Taylor

Sportsmanship

Coach Burgstahler

Most Improved

Ryan Shell

Freshman Ayron Williams prepares to return the ball. "I get my motivation from my coach," Williams said. Williams won six matches.

After a point, doubles partners Juniors Montrel Shell and Micah Burgstahler walk to the net. "I prepared a lot before the season by going to conditioning and lifting weights and running," Shell said. Shell played doubles and also had a double on the team. "It was weird having a sibling playing on the team with me," Shell said.

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Highland	L	3-2
Wheeler	L	4-1
Valparaiso	L	5-0
Crown Point	L	5-0
Noblesville Tourney JV		4th
LaPorte Tourney JV		4th
LaPorte	L	3-2
Portage	L	3-2
Warsaw Invite		4th
Michigan City	W	3-2
Chesterton	L	4-1
MHS Invite		3rd
Hobart	W	4-1
Lake Central	L	3-2
Munster	L	5-0
JV Invitational		7th
Lowell	L	4-1
Sectional		
Lake Station	W	5-0
Andrean	W	3-2
Regional		
Morton	W	3-2
Munster	L	0-5

Season Record: 5-11

Team captures sectional crown

The boy's Tennis Team entered the season with many returning players as well as some new faces. Along with their coaches, James Simon and Steven Stolka, the team had their expectations high and was ready to conquer the courts.

Senior Nygel Jackson was prepared to make his senior year his best. "I've been in the number one singles spot for the past two years now, so I'm comfortable where I'm at but I can never stop improving," Jackson said.

Senior Ronald Mayersky paired up with Junior Montriel Shell as the team's number one doubles pair. "I like being up at the net. Montriel plays well when he's playing back, so we work well together," Mayersky said. With different strengths the duo seems to balance each other out.

Some fresh faces joined the returning players. One of the new faces to hit the courts was Freshman Joseph Harris. "This is my first time playing tennis. My sister played, so Coach Simon encouraged me to come out for the team. Once I started I loved it and I hope to just keep improving and we'll see what happens," Harris said.

The Pirates ended their season with a record of 2-8 which doesn't accurately reflect how close their matches were. One point can either make or break the team. All of the players agreed that they played hard this season.

"During a match, you can't beat yourself up after a bad point. I just brush it off and make sure I don't make that same mistake again," Shell said.

After the boys ended their regular season and entered the postseason, they claimed the sectional title defeating Andrean 4-1 and Lake Station 5-0.

"I did pretty well in sectionals. I came out with a 6-1, 6-0 win against Andrean and a 6-0, 6-0 win against Lake Station," Jackson said.

On and off the courts, the boys have genuine bonds with one another. They help each other improve during practice, and they work together to make the season as memorable and enjoyable as they can.

The ball returns to his opponent as Senior Nygel Jackson swings away. "I feel pretty good about the season. It's been a big transition from last year," Jackson said. Jackson's record for the season was 7-2. He said he tried to motivate the team and stay focused throughout the season. "Anyone looking to join, just try to have fun and stay positive," Jackson said.

With his eyes on the ball, Freshman Stefan Santiago prepares to send it back over the net. "I was mentally prepared for the season and I tried to stay positive," Santiago said. Santiago made varsity his first year on the team. "It felt really good to make it to varsity for my first year."

Girls work to improve

With Senior Maggie Connelly leading the team for the fourth year, the girls' Golf team entered the season with high hopes and expectations.

Practices were long in anticipation of the new season.

"Practices consist of playing 9 or 18 holes, then practice putting and chipping from 3 to 7:30 p.m.," said Connelly.

The girls said they like to build strong bonds to achieve their goals.

"Golf team is really small, we're like family, and Mrs. Tubbs is like a second mom" Freshman Kathryn Jurczyk said.

Freshman Angelica Munchenburg said she looks to Connelly to help her golf [illegible] in the future.

"Maggie is a really cool player, and she really knows what [illegible]" Munchenburg said. "She's a real pro at golf, and I really look up to her."

"Each player has their own method of winning the game," said Jurczyk. "When I am really focused, I have the ability to control the mental part of the game, so this makes me play better."

Connelly's lowest score of 37 in the match against Valparaiso tied the number-one ranked female high school golfer in the state.

"Our best moment was Maggie getting to advance to regionals," Coach Patti Tubbs said.

In the Valparaiso Sectional, Valparaiso won and Connelly came in fifth to advance to regionals at Lafayette Jefferson.

"Our team came in last of six teams at Valparaiso Sectional," Coach Tubbs said.

The golfers agreed they had a hard season, but they plan to improve next season.

"We are a young team and could have done a little bit better, but next year, we will mostly work on drive, and practice, practice, practice," Coach Tubbs said. "I just love looking at the girls' improvement."

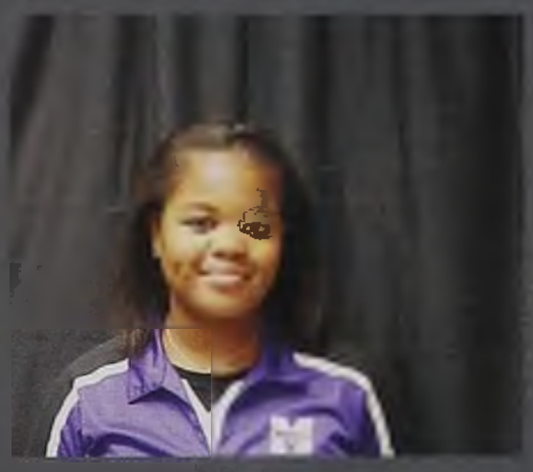
Utilizing her iron, Junior Brianna Cole hits the ball. Cole said that before games, she takes a nap and listens to music. "I have to be hype before a match because if I am, I'll have a good match," Cole said.

After adjusting her golf club, Senior Maggie Connelly hits the ball. "I prepare for games by putting on headphones, putting and hitting," Connelly said. Connelly plays in the number one position. "My favorite part about being on a team is the team-bonding experience," Connelly said. Connelly also advanced past sectionals with a score of 92.

Left: "I like the three wood club because it is easier to hit the ball than the irons," junior Brenna Cole said. This season, Cole played number three. "I like being a part of a team where we have fun together," Cole said. In between swings she takes deep breaths to calm her nerves. Above: On the tee, Sophomore Angelica Mundenburg drives the ball. "Before the game, I eat and listen to music, but in between my swings, I clean my clubs and keep hydrated," said Mundenburg. During the season, Mundenburg played varsity number three and number two at sectionals. Right: The ball rolls away as Junior Maryam Ali putts the ball. "Being team captain is a large responsibility to try to help the team get ready for meets," said Ali. Besides the matches, Ali said she likes the team bonding experience. The girls went out to dinner after practices. Ali accomplished her goal by beating her sectional score from last year, 148, with a 127 this year.

MVP & Sportsmanship

Maggie Connelly



Leadership

Maryam Ali

Most Improved

Kathryn Jurczyk

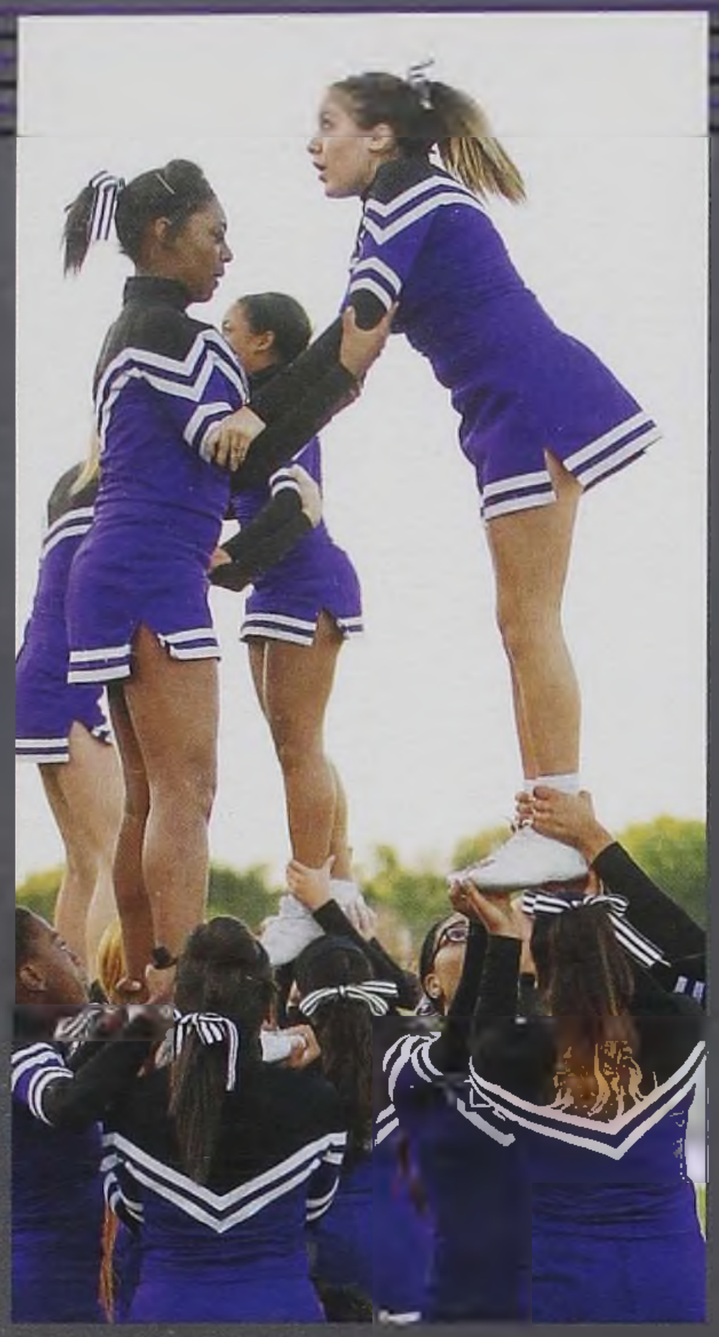
SCOREBOARD

Oppenent	Win/Loss	Score
Boone Grove	L	155-186
Rensselaer	L	201-254
DAC		8th of 8
Crown Point	L	174-251
North Newton	L	205-260
Tri-Meet		
Bishop Noll	W	163-256
Andrean	L	147-163
Valparaiso	L	155-256
Munster	L	177-235
Lake Central	L	159-243
Portage	L	183-237
LaPorte	L	184-266
Chesterton	L	172-243
Michigan City	L	216-238
Sectionals		6th

Season Record: 1-12

As Senior Maggie Connelly reads the green, she sees where the ball will break. "I started golf because I blew my shoulder out swimming," Connelly said. Besides playing for the Merrillville team, Connelly plays year-round.

With her iron at hand, Freshman Kathryn Jurczyk watches to see where the ball lands. With only one year of experience, Jurczyk plays both the number four and five spot. "I like playing number four better, because I'm playing with girls that are better," Jurczyk said. Besides practicing at school, she also puts time in at home.



Left: In order to execute properly, Senior Flyer Shawnay Lardydell assists Freshman Flyer Autumn Carrero in a toe touch toss. Lardydell has been on varsity all four years of her high school career. "The advice I would give to the underclassmen is to make each moment count. Time flies by quickly," Lardydell said. Above: Celebrating with her teammate Sophomore Tiffany Holst, Sophomore Haley Funches cheers the football team on. "My favorite part about cheerleading is that I am right in front of the fans. I love showing my enthusiasm for cheerleading and trying new things," Funches said. She has been a cheerleader for three years. Right: With her arms raised to prepare for a toe touch, Junior Khaila Sanchez begins the starting lineup for the Varsity Girls' Basketball team at Crown Point's Holiday Tournament. "My favorite thing about cheerleading is stunting and dancing. I really enjoy [illegible] team come together as a whole and create something very interesting," Sanchez said. Sanchez is a flyer in her favorite dance called Old Hip Hop. Her stunt group consists of Seniors Whitney Reese and Jourdain Rogers, herself and Freshman Mallerie Michalak.

Most Valuable Cheerleader

Jourdain Rogers

Leadership

Whitney Reese

Sportsmanship

Keristen Lucero

Most Improved

Ivori Fulton

Pride Enthusiasm Patience

Haley Funches

Below: Hands in blades, Freshman Samantha Kale braces arms with Junior Khaila Sanchez. "I have wanted to cheer on the high school team since I was four," Kale said. Kale cheered in Pop Warner when she was younger and also cheered in middle school. Her favorite part about cheerleading is stunting.

Left: Ready to clap, Freshman Ivori Fulton stands on the court during the starting lineup. Fulton believed the most challenging thing about being a freshman was learning to listen to the criticism of other teammates. "I wanted to be a cheerleader since I was five years old. My mother was a cheerleader. She told me how much fun it was," Fulton said.

Right: With pep in her step, Senior Kristin Thorton spirits during the starting lineup for Girls' Varsity Basketball. Thorton's favorite part about cheerleading was stunting. "I want everyone to watch what I am doing. I want to prove that cheerleading is a sport," Thorton said.

One of the elite

Entering the Freshman Lecture Hall on the call-out meeting day, Sophomore Alysa Lucero walked into the meeting with confidence. There were girls gathered all around talking about how excited they were. Head Coach Lori Govert asked the girls to take a seat so she could go over the basic information. Coach Govert also informed the girls that there was no longer going to be a junior varsity team. Lucero's breath was taken away and she made eye contact with her former teammates as she realized all of the girls would be trying out for one of 20 spots on the varsity team.

"You could feel the tension building in the room. I knew instantly I would have to try even harder to make the team," Lucero said.

Coach Govert said that many more girls come to the call-out meeting than actually showed up for tryouts. The tryouts consisted of two cuts before the coaches made their final decisions. The second cut was made to ensure the safety of the girls when the time came to be judged on stunts.

"Since we were only looking for girls to fill the varsity spots, we had to change the way we looked at their performance during tryouts. In the past, we had been able to look at the girls and see potential. This time, we had to look at the experience they came with and pick the elite," Coach Govert said.

About a week after tryouts, the team members began practicing on Mondays and Wednesdays after school for two hours. Preconditioning consisted of getting the team used to working together and building up some of their skills.

"The hardest part about taking on the leadership role of a senior was knowing that I had to take on a lot of responsibility," Senior Jourdain Rogers said.

The team traveled down to Valparaiso University for a four-day National Cheerleading Association Camp. The team was able to bond easily because they shared dorms together. They had walked into camp with Senior Kristin Thorton already unable to participate due to an injury. Unfortunately during their stay, five other team members were unable to participate due to injury or illness. Three out of those six members were seniors. With only one senior standing, the juniors had to step up and fill the leadership roles more quickly than expected.

"It was so stressful taking on the new leadership role, but it was definitely a learning experience. It only prepared me for how my senior year will be," Junior Serena Ford said.

The team was able to walk away from camp winning several awards including Top Team Performance, Champion Chant, and three Spirit Sticks. Fifteen of the twenty girls were All-American Nominees.

"We went away to camp hoping that the girls would be able to bond better. I think we definitely were able to get that from the camp. I am very proud of the girls being able to overcome some of the minor problems we had," Coach Maddie Beason said.

Returning home from camp, the girls began to attend their summer practices. The practices were on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The practices began at 6:45 in the morning and consisted of learning chants, completing cheers and practicing the fight song routine.

"The practices were rough. The toughest part was adapting to the new conditioning along with waking up so early," said Freshman Mallorie Michalak.

The team was able to learn quickly and to perfect their performances during football season. The girls made the coaches proud when they started off their season with four solid liberty groups without front sports. The team had an extra edge with having five members that could tumble.

"I believe our biggest accomplishment during football season was having four solid twist downs in our fight song," Ford said.

With the junior varsity team now nonexistent, the varsity team took on the responsibility of not only cheering at the Boys' Basketball games, but also having to cheer for the Girls' Basketball team. The team traveled at very few away games and spent most of their time at home games.

"Although we were not able to go to as many away games, we were able to learn more dances and focus on learning advanced stunts. I am very proud of my girls," Coach Govert said.

Energetically smiling to the crowd, Junior Briah Stinson performs New Hip Hop. Completing her third year on varsity, Stinson has always enjoyed the positive attention that is given to her by representing the school. "I enjoy being a cheerleader because it is my passion. Cheering makes me happy because I love the sport so much," Stinson said.

Rugged workouts part of Dance Team ritual

The Dance Team members and sponsors worked year-round to practice for performances during football and basketball games.

"We are looking for well-rounded individuals, young women who can be a great role model to the world," Dance coach Mrs. Celia Pollard said.

After tryouts on April 16, team members began a rugged workout, running stairs in the Hall of Flags and completing core workouts.

"This is the main thing," Mrs. Pollard said. "To keep them in shape to improve just basic technique and performance quality."

The team preformed at every football and basketball game. Seniors Marshawna Kendrick and Leona Wheeler shared the role of team captain.

"The most challenging part is staying motivated and practicing during your spare time," Wheeler said.

Wheeler admitted to being nervous for the first game, but worked to keep a strict schedule and work out every day to stay in shape.

"Practices end at 6 p.m.," she said. "I eat, then do homework, study for tests and then exercise."

At football games, the team performed shows and dances in the stands. At basketball games, they danced on the sideline before the game and performed during halftime.

The team lost seven seniors to the 2014 graduation and will have five spots available for the 2014-2015 school year.

Wheeler encouraged those who remain to "push themselves to do better."

Mrs. Pollard said she makes the mixes, but mostly assigned different routines for different students. Coach Latoya Tyson also helped choreograph the dances. Both coaches and dancers stressed that the team was close-knit.

"Our team is just like family," Mrs. Pollard said. "We have ups and downs, but at the end of the day, they support and love each other."

After their Beyonce performance, Junior Jamese Lewis and other team members end with a jump split. Although Lewis had been dancing since she was a baby, she became a Pirate dancer in eighth grade. "My mom inspired me to dance because she has been dancing since she was in high school," Lewis said. "Dancing is a family thing."

As Senior Naeemah White finishes the pregame routine with a High V, she flashes a wide smile. White said she had always wanted to try dancing and joined the team when she was a sophomore. "I think I had a good year and improved a lot from my first year," White said. "I'm going to miss the team and the girls."

Right: Before the football game, Senior Leona Wheeler completes the posse turn. Although Wheeler does a variety of dances such as modern, hip hop, African, jazz and lyrical, hip hop is her favorite because she enjoys freestyling. "I like being on the team so other girls can see my love for dance," Wheeler said. Above: Between fellow team members, Junior Charity Gilkey finishes her "TKO." Gilkey is a self-taught dancer who has been dancing for five years. "I enjoy dancing because it gives me an opportunity to escape from the world and enjoy myself," Gilkey said. Left: With a huge smile, Junior Da'Ja'Nay Askew hits the "O" during the basketball pregame routine. Askew has been dancing for four years, and she says that she gives her all during practices to always improve technique. "I like bonding and performing with the girls," Askew said.

Most Valuable Dancer

Charity Gilkey

Miss Congeniality

Da'Ja'Nay Askew

Best Teammate

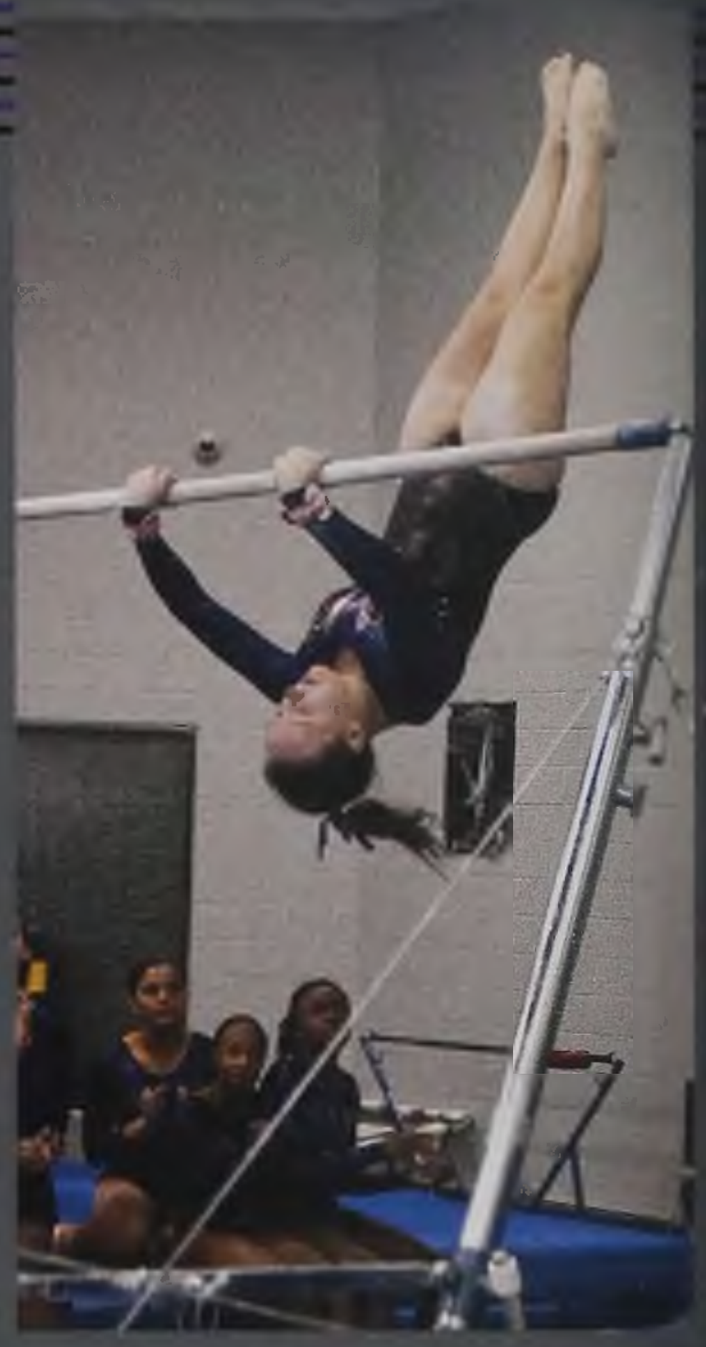
Marlana Emilion

Most Improved

Jasmin Pollard

Left: Dancing to the Poms routine, Senior Larissa Harris shakes her pom-poms. Harris loves dancing because it allows her to expre[illegible]self. She's inspired by the reactions of her audience seeing her dances. "I dance because it's a passion," Harris said. "It's an art and not a sport." Below: In the middle of a pregame show, Junior Xeria Griffin performs a Cycle V dance. Griffin has been dancing since age seven with inspiration from her cousin. "I like Hip Hop because you can go hard and put your all into it," Griffin said. "It makes me happy!" Right: During a halftime performance, Senior Marshawna Kendrick completes her pirouette. Kendrick said she enjoyed being on the team because everyone on the team pushes each other. "I have been dancing on varsity for four years," Kendrick said. "Dance made me the person who I am today."

Left: Flashing a smile to the judges during her floor routine, Freshman Jazymne Magee prepares to end her floor routine. "I really enjoyed this season. It is a step up from doing middle school gymnastics and I am glad I decided to stick with it," Magee said. Above: In midair, preparing to land her vault, Senior Taylor Woods has one main goal of making it all the way to state this season. "The hardest part about this season was knowing that it will be my last time ever competing in gymnastics," Woods said. During the off season, Woods worked out and did gymnastics in her spare time to keep her body in good shape for season. Right: As her teammates cheer her on, Sophomore Bethany Rochefort swings around the bar completing an uprise. Rochefort started gymnastics 12 years ago because of her older sister and continues to compete because of the challenge. Rochefort won Best Mental Attitude for the second time. "It's nice to know my coach believes I have a positive outlook," Rochefort said.



Most Valuable Player

Heather Osorio

Leadership

Hunter Kaser

Mental Attitude

Bethany Rochefort

Most Improved

Wanda Romero

Smiling and having a sentimental moment with the team, Sophomore Hunter Kaser is excited for the season to start. "I can't wait for this season. I have a lot of faith and believe we will go far this year," Kaser said. To stay calm during every meet, Kaser tried to stay focused on the positive things.

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Michigan City	L	105.825-104.50
Hobart	W	106.25-88.20
Lowell	W	106.25-74.40
Lake Central	W	110.475-98.225
LaPorte	W	108.875-100.55
Portage	W	107.875-107.60
Chesterton	W	110.225-108.25
Valparaiso	L	111.625-107.55
Crown Point	W	110.45-104.95
DAC		3rd
Sectionals		2nd
Regionals		3rd
State		5th

Season Record: 7-2

Completing her ring leap on the floor, Senior Kristina Goodman has high expectations to make it to state. "Placing in the top three at state and even just making it to state would be such a great accomplishment," Goodman said. Goodman wants to surpass her personal best of a 9.6 in the floor exercise.

Down to the last flip

The "bold couple" Seniors Kristina Goodman and Taylor Woods had three main goals this season.

The first step was to make it past sectionals and regionals as a team. The team finished their regular season with a record of 5-2.

With six returning gymnasts and four new girls the team practiced five days a week, for three hours to prepare for competitions after school.

Pre-season consisted of working out in the summer with light practices to keep their body's season ready.

Two very big meets were cancelled due to many snow days but this did not stop the girls from practicing.

"We still managed to get to practice and make sure we were on top of our game. We weren't going to let those snow days keep us in the house," Woods said.

The second step was to accomplish a goal of reaching a 170 before their season ended. With the goal accomplished at their third meet, the team was one step away from completing their third and final goal.

The third step was to make it down to the state championships as a team, held at Ball State Worthen Arena.

"This season is going to be amazing. Everything is falling into place. We are going to make it to the final stretch," Junior Jannel Boyd said.

The girls finished second place at sectionals and third place at regionals, earning themselves a trip to the state championship for the first time in 11 years.

"It's a bittersweet feeling and exciting because we finally made it, and I wouldn't want to end my last gymnastics meet's ever with any other team," Goodman said.

In a handstand on the bars getting ready to dismount, Freshman Heather Osorio has one main goal of making an impact on her team's success. "My favorite event is bars. I have always been good at it. It's just something that came naturally to me," Osorio said. Making a trip down to state as a freshman is Osorio's main goal being a part of the team this year.

With focus on completing her bar routine, Junior Jannel Boyd prepares to finish a Chinese Sit-... Although beam was Boyd's best event, she enjoys floor because she can showcase her ...sonality. "I started gymnastics in fifth grade. I like how hard you have to work," Boyd said. ... you want to be good, you have to work real hard. It's not easy."

For love of the game

After his senior-dominated team graduated in 2013, Coach T.J. Lux started the new season with a young team, untested on the varsity court.

"We are inexperienced. There were no returning varsity players. We are taking a big jump, and we are learning to take big demands, and it has been fun seeing the growth from then to now," Coach Lux said.

Coach Lux said due to their limited court experience, the season started rough.

"Sometimes we tend to have a lack of mental concentration, and we forget what to do, and we have mental breakdowns on offense and defense," Coach Lux said early in the season.

As the season progressed, teamwork and team play improved.

"At first, it was a struggle because we were not used to how each other played, but as the season went on, we have grown and have better team chemistry," James Wright III (50) said.

By the middle of the season and after winning only one game, the boys hit a turning point. They pulled off their first Duneland Athletic Conference (DAC) win against the Portage Indians.

"We are a young team, but we're very talented and have potential to do amazing things now that we have a better understanding of the game," Wright said.

As sectionals approached, the boys prepared to take on the LaPorte Slicers in the first round. During the regular season the boys played LaPorte and lost due to an unexpected buzzer beater.

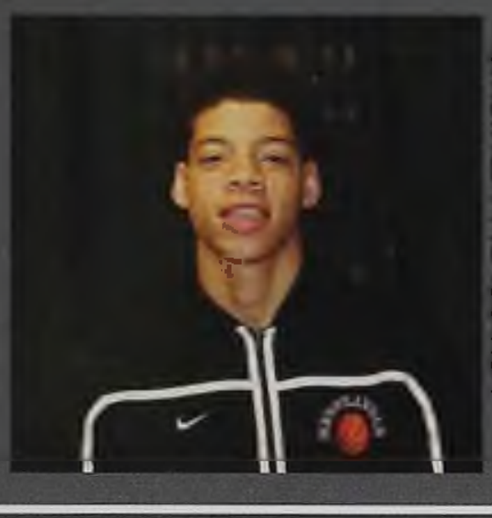
"There were eight seconds left on the clock, and he hit a three point shot to win the game, so that devastated us," Junior Vejer Cox (32) said. "but also motivated us to win against them the next time we played."

When the team takes the court in November 2014, seven varsity players will return.

With eyes focused on the basket, Senior James Wright III scores a lay-up against the Chesterton Trojans. "Basketball has been in my family a long time, and my first time ever playing, I fell in love," Wright said. This is Wright's seventh year playing basketball. Wright's inspiration was his family and being able to succeed. "This year taught me how to be a harder worker and a smarter player," Wright said.

Looking for an open pass, Senior Demetrius McKeethen passes the ball to a teammate. "My goal is to make it through sectionals," McKeethen said. McKeethen said he focuses on the plays he is going to make before a game. "Over the season, I learned how to be a better leader," McKeethen said.

Right: While trying to push through the other team, Senior Diante' Montgomery focuses on making a basket. "I wanted to play basketball because of watching the NBA and seeing how fun it is," Montgomery said. Being a shooting guard on the team, Montgomery focuses on his work ethic and leadership. "My coach and friends are my inspiration. Above: Focusing on keeping his hands on the ball, Sophomore Demond Wilkins Jr. looks to pass his opponent. "I like to be active and have fun, which is what basketball is about," Wilkins said. Wilkins' goal was to get better every week and to make it as far in the season as the team could. Left: Preparing to go for a lay-up, Junior Marcel Cherry runs toward the basket. "My goal this season is to make it all the way to state," Cherry said. With his father as his inspiration, Cherry has been playing basketball for ten years. Cherry was point guard.



Leadership

Demetrius McKeethen

Sportsmanship

Sirius Stevens

Most Improved

Cameron Wilson

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Homestead	L	70-41
Highland	W	46-43
Hammond Bishop Noll	L	52-44
Andrean	L	79-64
Holiday Tourney	L	72-33
		54-45
Noblesville High School	L	51-27
Chesterton	L	68-42
North Judson	L	51-42
Crown Point	L	71-60
Portage	W	59-55
Valparaiso	L	35-31
Lake Central	L	65-43
Munster	L	80-54
LaPorte	L	61-59
Michigan City	L	58-48
Hobart	W	68-43
Morgan Township	W	61-50
Lowell	L	41-39
Sectional	L	62-49

Season Record: 4-15

Trying to get the ball back, Junior Xqyvion Williamson begins to close out. "I have been playing basketball since I was in the sixth grade and decided to play because it looked fun," Williamson said. Playing as a small forward this year, Williamson's main goal was to make it all the way to state.

As he concentrates on finding an open teammate to pass the ball to, Junior Ford Muhammad pushes off the defense. "Playing basketball to me was the most fun sport as a kid. I just stuck with it from that point on," Muhammad said. Muhammad has been playing basketball for 11 years and has been in AAU for five. "Before a game, my main focus is finding ways to help my team win," Muhammad said.

Left: As she rebounds the ball, Junior forward Joz Talley concentrates on bringing the ball down the court to score against Lake Central. Talley has spent two years as a varsity player and said more school support at games is something she hopes for her senior year. "It will be a new team, and as a senior, I will have big shoes to fill, but I know we can do it," Talley said. One of Talley's favorite sports quotes is, "Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard." Above: After gaining possession of the ball, Freshman Kiana Thompson dribbles down the court to set up the next play. "Being on varsity was fun and interesting," Thompson said. Thompson's favorite part of the season was winning sectionals. "I really liked cutting the rope," she said. Right: In an attempt to score a point, Freshman Joselle Wright goes for a lay-up. The team lost to LaPorte, but Wright said, "For a tough game, we played hard and did well with defense and offense." Wright said that as a freshman, she had to learn a lot but is not intimidated by the older varsity members.

Most Valuable Player

Leadership
Audrianna Downs

Sportsmanship
Victoria Gaines

Most Improved
Wyranda Harris

Rana Todd

During a home game against Chesterton, Senior forward/center Tadja Outlar blocks for a good defense. Outlar has been playing basketball since fourth grade and said this year, her personal season went well. She agreed that the team is close and that team compatibility is important. "I believe even when you're not in a game as a team player, it's important to cheer on the ones in the game," she said. Before a game in the locker room, the Lady Pirates encouraged each other to do their best.

A four-year veteran on the varsity team, Senior point guard Audrianna Downs drives the ball past the Elkhart Memorial defender. Downs said she tries to be a great leader by taking responsibility. Downs also said that she saw a great improvement in the team defense. "Encouraging each other and praying before each game is what helps me focus," Downs said.

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Andrean	W	54-33
South Bend Saint Joseph	L	64-46
Fort Wayne Northrop	W	66-50
Fort Wayne Snider	W	75-58
Valparaiso	W	57-28
Lake Central	L	66-57
Elkhart Memorial	W	85-66
LaPorte	L	48-45
Michigan City	W	73-41
Lowell	W	72-58
Portage Tournament	W	45-34
Lake Central Tournament	L	52-50
Chesterton	W	70-43
South Bend Washington	L	97-94
Crown Point	W	64-56
Hobart	W	70-34
Portage	W	47-28
Penn High School	L	70-63
Kankakee Valley	W	59-49
Sectional	W	64-41
Sectional	W	64-47
Sectional	W	56-49
Regional	L	66-55

Season record: 16-7

Expect the unexpected

Adrenaline is always rushing when a basketball player plays the beloved sport. For the first [illegible] of this season, Junior Jaz Talley (20) touched the rim. She said her heart was pumping from [illegible]. She recalled the game against Michigan City when the last few seconds were ticking down and Merrillville was winning. She said that at that point she was very hyped [illegible] was pumping during a game when Junior Victoria Gaines (15) almost completed a [illegible] double, which consists of assists, rebounds, points and blocks all reaching double [illegible].

"I like playing ball because I get the sort of adrenaline rush when I shoot the ball and make it," Senior Audrianna Downs (22) said.

Coach Amy Govert said the Pirates had a rough start to the season but improved even with some new faces. Three freshmen joined the team including Jasmine Wright, Kiarra Thompson and Alexus Shirrells.

"It's a challenge being a freshman on varsity, but I have made improvements such as less [illegible] and I'm less hesitant to shoot. My defense has also gotten better," Wright said.

"Upperclassmen on the team have had an impact on the younger players," said Sophomore Erika McClinton (32).

"My inspirations are the upperclassmen such as CoCo and Jaz (Gaines and Talley), even though they may not know it," McClinton said.

Players say they found different ways to focus before the game.

"I listen to the game itself, offense and defense and how to make it all come together," Gaines said.

"I focus on running and trying my hardest," Wright said.

Some players even have some goals that they want to complete by the end of the season.

"I want to become better in my playing as well as being a better leader and teammate. Also, I want the team to make it out of sectionals," Gaines said.

Govert said the team has vastly improved from two years to [illegible].

"They have improved tremendously," Govert said. "There is a better chemistry and understanding of basketball as well as basketball knowledge."

Gaines led the team with 321 points for the season averaging 15 points a game, 170 rebounds and 11 a game, 116 defensive rebounds, 86 assists and 4 a game, 40 steals, 50 blocks and 116 field goals made out of the 191 attempted. Senior Raina Todd led with 55 offensive rebounds throughout the season. Wright and Senior Myranda Harris tied to become runners with 6(54 Wright) and 5(51 Harris). Leading scorer of the new faces was Wright gaining 144 points and 6 a game. Thompson followed with 55 points and 2 a game. And Shirrells ended the season with 14 points and almost 1 point a game.

The Pirates drew Valparaiso for their first round of sectionals and won advancing into the second round with which they played Chesterton. They won that game. In the third round of sectionals, the Pirates gained another win against LaPorte advancing to regionals.

Unfortunately, the Pirates lost in the first round of regionals against Penn.

"It was a fun season and winning sectionals again was nice. I wish we could have went further though," Harris said.

"I had fun going back to sectionals, winning back to back and going down in school history. I enjoyed playing with my teammates," Downs said.

As Anderson inbounds the ball, Sophomore power forward Erika McClinton uses her body in defense. McClinton, who has played varsity since freshman year, said at first she was intimidated by Coach Amy Govert, but her teammates welcomed her and made her feel like family. "My mindset is team first," she said. "We must play as one unit, and then defend, because defense wins games."

At the Duneland Conference holiday tournament in Crown Point, Junior small forward Victoria Gaines goes for a lay-up against Lake Central. The team lost by two points. Gaines said that the girls work well together, but sometimes they don't listen to each other. The team had a rocky start in the season, but Gaines said they got better once they focused on teamwork and strengthened their defense.

Building on excellence

Winning sectionals and regionals, placing second at semi-state and eighth at state the Pirates dominated the Duneland Athletic Conference. This was no easy accomplishment.

Freshman James Davis was one of many underclassmen to join the sport.

"Workouts were 24/7. Coach [David] Maldonado never gave an easy practice," said Davis.

Senior Michael Garza knows what it takes to continue to do well at wrestling.

"Recognition, discipline, hard work and dedication are some of the good qualities I learned through wrestling, but also sometimes you leave feeling sore, beat up, and sometimes we even go without eating. Overall, you have to make sacrifices, but it's worth it," Garza said.

The Pirates anticipated finishing the season undefeated. Sophomore Shawn Streck who was ranked third at state, attributed his wins to Coach Maldonado and to practices.

"Practicing hard every day and always finding ways to improve is how we are keeping up our winning streak. I look up to Coach Maldonado," Streck said.

Many members on the team agree that staying in a weight class is the hardest part. Many of the wrestlers participated in other sports or continued to lift and do

"I do Aikido during off season to keep in shape," Senior Willie Armstrong said.

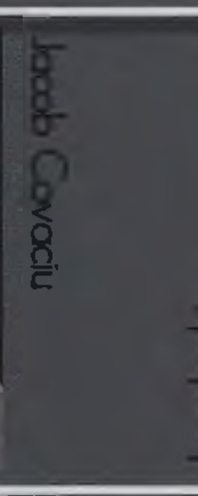
The six wrestlers advancing to state were Sophomore Jacob Covaciu placing second, Streck placing third, Senior Isaac Rentas placing fifth, Garza, Armstrong and Junior Clarence Johnson III, who placed seventh.

As he prepares to make a move, Junior Felipe Godinez sizes up his opponent. Godinez was a junior varsity wrestler in the 113 weight class. He has been wrestling for three years and he does a lot of running, weightlifting and working on moves to improve his skills. "My season highlight is when I put somebody in the cradle for a finals match," Godinez said. He liked getting to know everybody since he was new to the school. Godinez said he also liked how Coach David Maldonado pushed them to work hard and wanted nothing but the best for them.

As he tries to pull around and get two points, Freshman James Davis grabs the ankle of his opponent. He is in the 132 weight class and has been wrestling for two years. Davis' season highlight is being able to have the chance to wrestle at the Missouri tournament. He runs every morning and night to stay in shape and listens to music to prepare for a match. "The upperclassmen on the team inspire me because they push me to go hard," Davis said. Davis says that his motivation for wrestling is so that he can make his parents proud.

Left: To get the upper hand in the match, Senior Montana Williams attempts to put his opponent in a cradle. This was Williams' first year wrestling for Merrillville, and he was part of the 145 weight class. "I wrestle this year to train and get ready for boxing so that I can win the Golden Gloves," Williams said. One of the advantages he said he had on the mat was that he is stronger than most people he wrestled which was why he did not lose a lot. He gets better by training and practicing with people who have been doing it for a long time. Above: To hold his opponent, Junior Justin Johnson uses the single leg. A varsity wrestler in the 160 weight class, Johnson said his season highlight was when he won his matches in overtime at DAC. To get ready for matches, Johnson makes sure he prays, and he is motivated by the love of the sport. "I am inspired by my coach because when I feel like giving up, he gives me the will to continue," Johnson said. His goals for the season are to fight for every position and be more prepared mentally. Right: Trying to get a good position on his opponent, Senior Michael Garza performs a wrist ride. Garza is in the 113 weight class and has been wrestling for 14 years. "My favorite part of this season was winning seventh place at state in Indy," Garza said. He prepared for the season by watching films, running and lifting weights. Garza is inspired by his dad because he has been his coach and has been with him the whole time.

Most Valuable Palyer



Joseph Covaciu

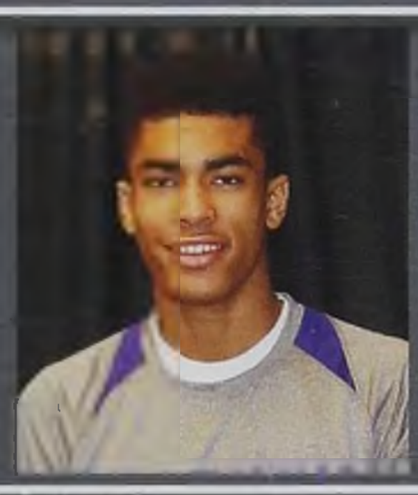
Leadership

Sam Strack

Sportsmanship

Michael Garza

Most Improved



Lawrence Johnson III

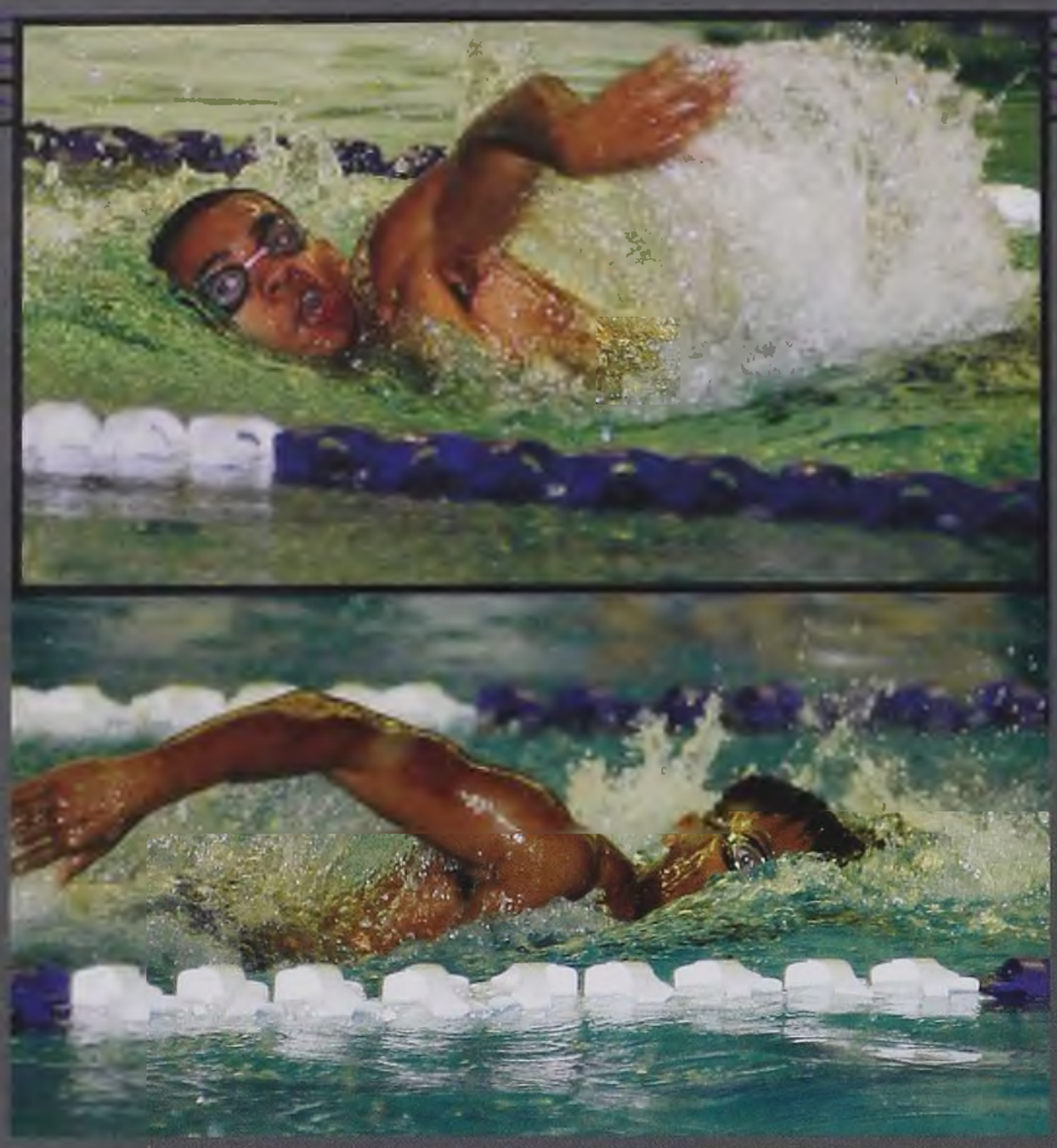
SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Valparaiso	W	50-12
LaPorte Duals		1st
Portage	W	35-29
Tom Cameron Invite		1st
Chesterton	W	40-28
Rich East Tourney		1st
Mishawaka Invitational		2nd
Crown Point	W	39-28
Lake Central	W	41-19
DAC		1st
Michigan City	W	82-0
Sectionals		1st
Regionals		1st
Semi-State		2nd
State		8th

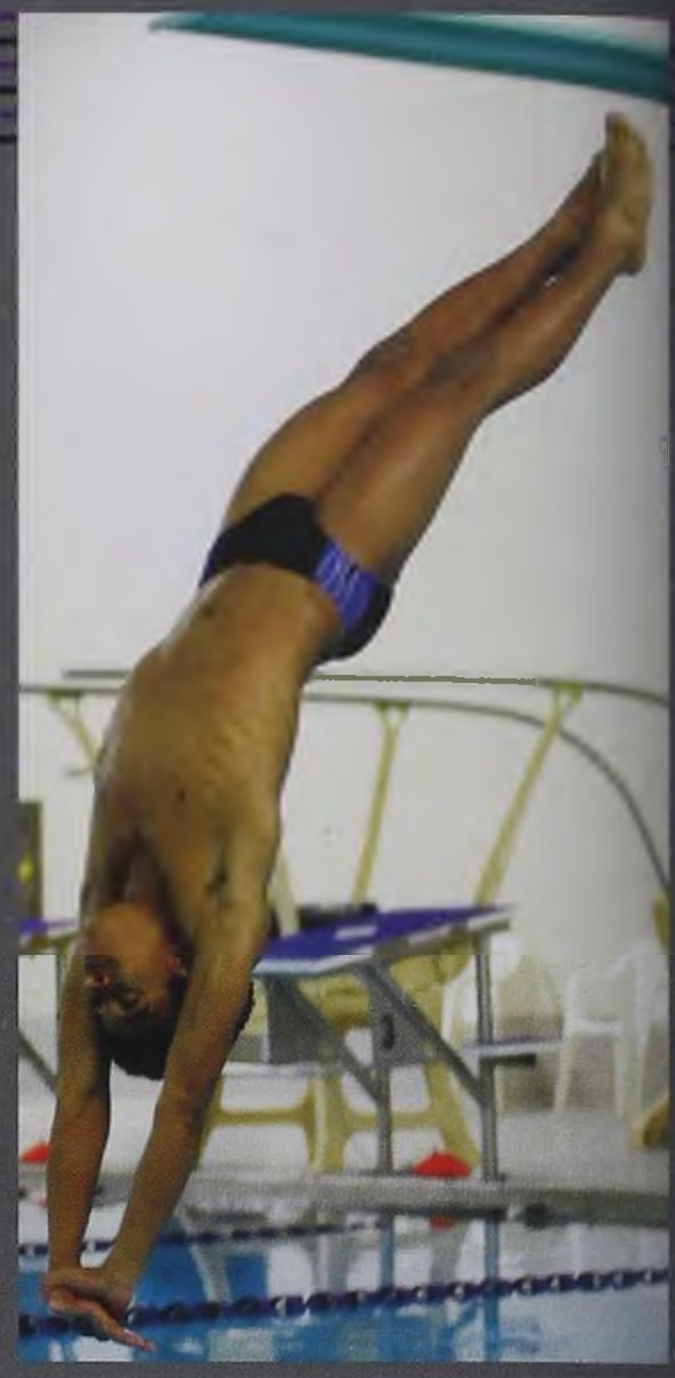
Season Record: 20-4

As he sprawls on the mat, Senior Deven Lee lifts the ankle of his opponent. Lee is a seven-year veteran in the 170 weight class. He was a sectional champ and advanced to semi-state by working hard every day with his teammates. Lee prepared for the season by going to practice and competing in off-season tournaments. "Coach Maldonado inspires me because I want to achieve the same things he did and win state," Lee said.

Competing in the 138 weight class, Senior Devone Greer holds his opponent in the referee position. A varsity wrestler who has been wrestling for four years, Greer said his season highlight was wrestling against somebody ranked second in the nation. He did a lot of running and working out during the off season so that he could get ready for the season. "My biggest inspiration is my little cousin because she has always been there for me since I was little," Greer said. His goals for the season were to wrestle his hardest and get far in the post-season.



Top left: Ripping through the surface, Senior Jovaun Wills swims his event, the 50-meter freestyle. Wills did a lot to prepare for the season. "We lifted weights, ran, did ab workouts, and there was constant swimming," Wills said. Wills said he always had the same mindset going into each event. "Finish hard," Wills said. Bottom left: In a meet, Senior Aaron Fuller swims the freestyle. "We have practice every day out of the week," Fuller said. Fuller said he had two goals for the season. "I just want to drop the time in my two favorite events," Fuller said. Fuller was on the 200-yard medley relay team that came in seventh at sectionals. Right: One of two divers on the team, Junior Dwayne Fitzpatrick Jr. completes a backward dive off the board. Diving scores are based on the execution and difficulty of a dive. Fitzpatrick has been on the team for three years. "My friend (Junior) Garrett (Ferrell) inspired me to join the swimming team," Fitzpatrick said. Fitzpatrick came in sixth in the one-meter diving event at sectionals.



Most Valuable Player

Daman Digangi

Leadership

Gregory Vega

Sportsmanship

David Osorio

Most Improved

Joseph Harris

To make sure he beats his opponents, Junior Darshawn Woodard pushes hard during the 50 freestyle. It was Woodard's first year swimming, and along with his fellow teammates, he placed eighth in the finals. Woodard prepared for his meets by completing his warm-ups and listening to music. "I always listen to 'The Fighter' by Gym Class Heroes," Woodard said, "because it inspires me and helps me get in the right mindset."

While waiting to start the 400 relay, Junior Gregory Vega waits in position to take off. Vega started swimming in the fifth grade. "My first year swimming, I really enjoyed it," Vega said. "The coaches told me I had a lot of potential if I continued to work hard."

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Portage	L	143-39
Lake Central	L	123-58
Rensselaer Central	L	135-50
Lake Central	L	121-63
Highland	W	119-57
Hobart	L	145-38
Crown Point	W	131-27
Griffith	L	108-75
Kankakee Valley	L	112-71
Lowell	L	132-52
Valparaiso	L	137-48
Munster	L	127-56
Michigan City	L	127-58
LaPorte	L	100-74
Bishop Noll	W	100-74
Chesterton	L	147-38
DAC		8th
Sectionals		6th

Season Record: 3-14

Breaking the surface

Going into the swimming and diving season, the boys practiced to be prepared for the meets.

"We practice every single day in the pool," Senior Aaron Fuller said. "Overall, it's a lot of work, but it's worth it because we get better at our meets."

As a team, the boys worked a good relationship with each other throughout the season.

"We are like a big happy family," Junior Dwayne Fitzpatrick said. "I know lots of people on teams say that. We are just really close."

Most of the team members say that they are like family, and friends encouraged them to join the team.

"My sister was in swimming when she went here, so I was sort of forced," sophomore Brian Baran said. "But I still like it no matter who made me join."

"My friend Garrett, who is on the swim team, told me about it, and once I joined I got interested more and more," Fitzpatrick Jr. said.

According to the team, practice makes perfect.

"We began swimming easy sets," Baran said. "As time progressed, it got harder, but we gotten used to it."

Some of the players have a favorite stroke. Fuller said his favorite is the freestyle.

"My favorite swimming stroke is the freestyle," Fuller said. "I like that one the best because I can go really fast, and it's very simple to do."

While the team only won three meets, the coach still looks at the positive side.

"The fact that we have a young new team, it's going really well," Coach Sara Jollings said. "The boys have good time drops and good performances, so I'm very proud of the team."

After a quick prayer for his success in the meet, Freshman Joseph Harris swims the backstroke. "Some of the practices are hard," Harris said, "but they help me stay dedicated." During the course of the season, Harris said he dropped his times in the freestyle. He said his personal goal is to advance to the state tournament by his junior year. At sectionals, Harris swam the 200-yard freestyle in 2:17.32.

While competing in a meet, Sophomore Brian Baran swims the fly. The fly is when a swimmer extends his arms out and brings them back inward. "It's my favorite stroke out of them all," he said. Baran is on the varsity swimming team. "We are like one big family, and I enjoy cooperating with a team," Baran said.

Just keep swimming

Despite a rough start to the season the girls refused to let it get them down. On the Girls' Swimming team, seven athletes focused on their training and improving their personal records.

"We are not sure why the team is so small this year, but we told the girls that they have to talk to and recruit their friends" Coach Sara Stallings said.

The girls worked on building physical endurance during morning practices, which started at 6 a.m., three days a week. On Monday, the girls swim. They practice the stroke that they swim in meets. On Wednesday, they swim and do sprint sets. On Friday, they work out in the weight room.

"The practices are much harder than the meets because in practice, I swim for almost 2 hours straight, but in a meet, I probably won't swim more than 30 seconds" Senior Maggie Connelly said.

After taking her junior year off, Senior Kennedy Wilck's main goal was to improve her times. Her personal best for the 200 individual medley remains 2:35.

"I hope to drop my time down to what it was my sophomore year. I couldn't swim my junior year because of shoulder problems." Wilck said.

The girls ended their season with 3 wins and 12 losses. They traveled to Chesterton for sectionals, where they placed 8th of 12 teams.

Arms break the water when Senior Caitlinn Caddick swims the backstroke for her race. "During meets, I encourage the team to keep going and tell them that they can do it," Caddick said. She has been on the team for four years and swam a personal best of 1:10 in the backstroke. In the 200-yard medley relay, she swam 2:05.12.

The water ripples as Senior Imani Smith swims the breaststroke. "I try to motivate the girls and help the underclassmen if they need the help," Smith said. Smith's race was the 100 breast, which is one of the more difficult races.

Top left: As she moves her arms forward through the water, Senior Kennedy Wick swims the fly to complete her race. "During practices I'd encourage the team and make sure that they are having fun," Wick said. Wick's races included the 100 Butterfly, 200 medley relay, 100 fly and the 400 free relay. At sectionals in the 200-yard medley, she swam 2:33.54. Bottom left: With her head briefly above the water, Junior Robin Townsend swims the breaststroke. "My motivation was to try to drop my time and try to be a good team mate for the rest of the team," Townsend said. Being a captain on the team, Townsend tried to encourage the team to let them know that they could do it and try to help them keep a positive mind. At sectionals, she came in sixth in the 100-yard freestyle. Right: While she sits on the edge of the pool, freshman Ebonie Ali counts her teammate's 500. "If we are [illegible] losing a meet, I would [illegible] on the good that is happening," she said. Ali was the only freshman on the varsity team. She swam the 500 freestyle in 30 and the 100 freestyle in 1:09.

Most Valuable Player

Leadership

Robin Townsend

Sportsmanship

Maggie Conally

Most Improved

Caitlinn Caddick

Hannah Sawyer

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Lowell	L	91-79
Chesterton	L	150-25
Portage	L	113-61
Rensselaer Central	W	84-82
Lake Central	L	145-35
Highland	L	96-78
Hobart	L	109-56
Crown Point	L	117-56
Griffith	W	105-32
Kankakee Valley	L	126-47
Valparasio	L	126-52
Munster	L	126-49
Michigan City	L	127-54
DAC		8th
LaPorte	L	112-58
Bishop Noll	W	102-57
Sectionals		8th

Season Record : 3-12

As she takes breaths of air, Senior Jennifer Meloy swims the 500 freestyle. "Swimming is my passion. I had seen my sister swimming, and I decided I wanted to give it a try," Meloy said. In order to stay in shape for the season, Meloy changed what she ate and trained hard before sectionals. Meloy swam a personal best of 6:10 on her 500 freestyle.

Pushing her arms through the water, Sophomore Hannah Sawyer swims the freestyle. "This year, I made several accomplishments, made better times, and I placed higher in sectionals," Sawyer said. Sawyer swam the 200 freestyle in 2:16.15. Before the season, she prepared by going on active walks with her dog and trained on the elliptical.

Left: In preparation for a shot, Freshman Marcus Norton checks his distance with a golf scope. Norton has been involved in the sport for many years. "This is my first year on the team, but I've been playing for quite a while. It's just really relaxing," Norton said. Above: Double-checking his mark on the ball, Freshman Elijah Royal kneels in preparation for his shot. Despite some disappointments during the season, Royal said he was satisfied with his performance. "I wouldn't change anything about the season," he said. "Overall, it's just been a good experience." Right: As he tees off on his driver, Senior Andrew Gross looks at his shot. For his senior season, Coach Patti Tubbs said Gross set his sights high. "This season has definitely been great for all my seniors," Mrs. Tubbs said. "I'm very proud of all they've accomplished."

Most Valuable Player

Kyle Krause

Leadership

Robert Nielson

Sportsmanship

Marcus Norton

While teeing off, Freshman Elijah Royal pushes for a win. With ten years of playing experience, Royal is no newcomer to the world of golf. "I've been playing for ten years, but I've been playing at MHS for only one," Royal said.

Reading his line for the putt, Senior Robert Nielson prepares for a shot. With nearly seven years of playing experience, Nielson used his final season to prepare for a college golf career. "This whole season has just been preparing me for college golf, which I'm really excited for," Nielson said.

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Wheeler	W	199-220
Calumet	W	192-234
North Newton	W	163-199
LaPorte	L	193-199
KV Invite		14th
Kankakee Valley	L	203-210
Crown Point	L	163-215
Portage	L	177-215
Griffith	W	186-227
Chesterton	L	169-203
Michigan City	L	165-203
Boone Grove Invite	L	2nd
Valparaiso	L	148-203
Lake Central	L	166-203
Chesterton	L	163-208
Michigan City	L	163-208
Portage	L	166-204
LaPorte	L	156-196
Valparaiso	L	164-169
Lake Central Invite		14th
Lake Central	L	164-201
Crown Point	L	154-201
DAC Invite		8th
Sectionals		7th

Season Record: 4-15

Golfers achieve independence

Starting with multiple wins, the Boys' Golf team headed into the season with confidence and high hopes. With the addition of eight new players, the team has a total of 14 golfers.

To peepare for the season, Coach Patti Tubbs motivated the team to exceed their past achievements.

"Practice, practice, practice," Coach Tubbs said. "We have practice every day that there is no match for three and a half hours."

Despite the three rained-out games, golfers still worked to achieve their independent as well as the team's goals.

"My goal for the season was to keep my average in the mid- to high 50s," sophomore Joshua Hiller said.

"As a team, our goal was to improve our record and to have more rounds under 200," Coach Tubbs said. "Also, I told them that if they could get their team average to fewer than 165 I would make them steak dinners."

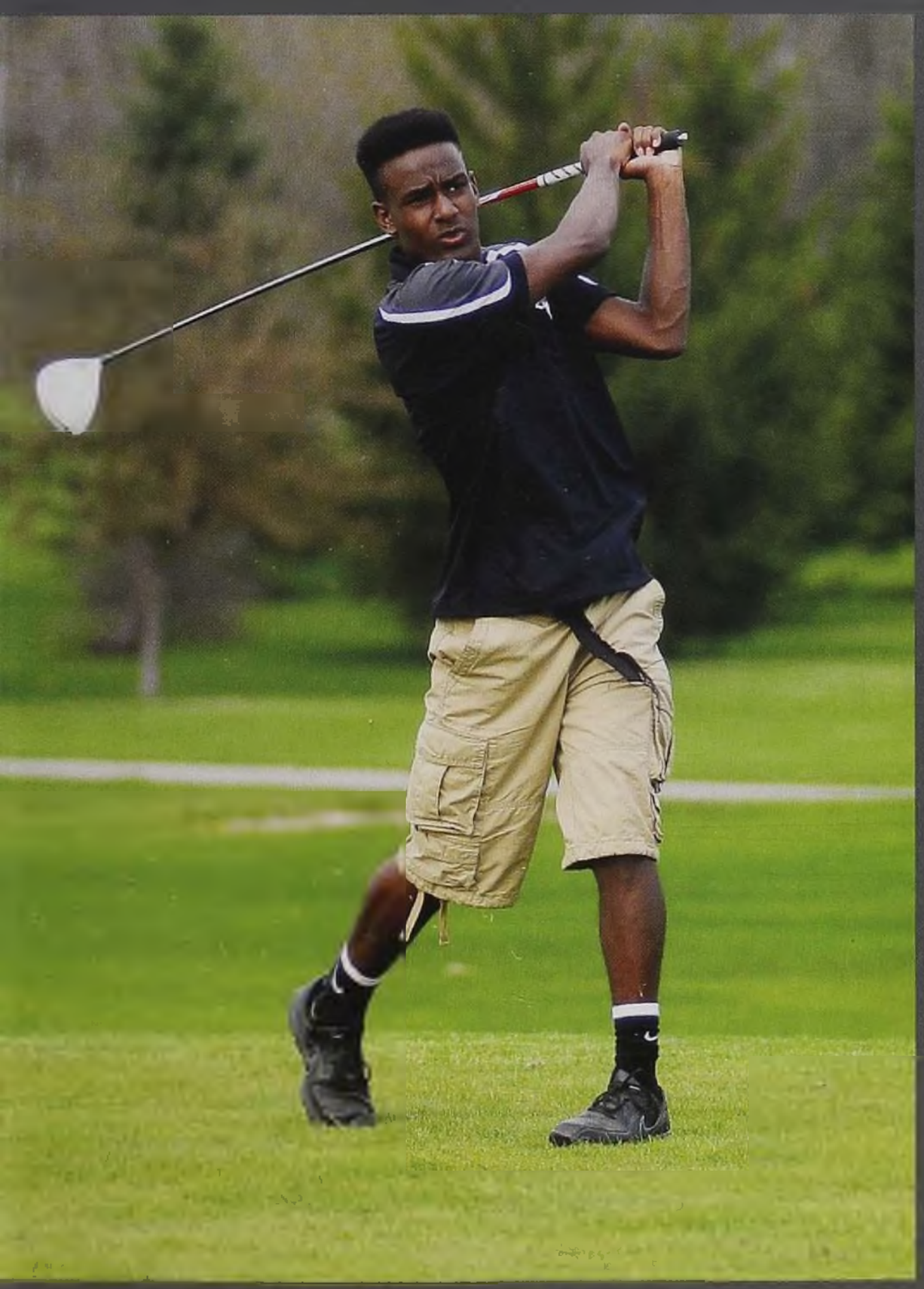
With four seniors leaving the team at the end of the season, underclassmen were expected to step it up.

"They should do well after we leave," Senior Kyle Krause said. "They are a good group of golfers."

Even though Senior Robert Nielson's high school golf career came to an end, he still plans to pursue the sport after graduation.

"This whole season has prepared me for college golf," Nielsen said.

The golfers ended the season with a 4-15 record and placed 7th at sectionals.



Teeing off with his driver, Senior Nicolas Hayes finishes his first shot. With only six months of playing time under his belt, Hayes said his main goal for the season was to advance past sectionals. "I just wanted to shoot under 49 and get out of sectionals," Hayes said.

With eyes on the ball in the fairway, Senior Robert Nielson pauses after he tees off. Nielson had many goals for his senior season. "My goals were just to improve my overall game," he said. "As a team, we wanted to be able to compete against the best teams as well as make it out of regionals."

Creating new traditions

The girls' tennis season started off with two wins providing hope for the remainder of the season to come. Despite this, some girls were disappointed that their positions were changed from singles to doubles.

"It's hard to go from singles to doubles," Sophomore Erika McClinton said. "I haven't played doubles since last year, so the whole playing style is different. You have a bigger court in doubles, and you play with someone else."

The girls' main focus for this season was to improve on their serves as well as to make it past sectionals. Although the team did not make it past sectionals, many players were able to improve on techniques.

"I've gotten a lot better at my back hand and my serves," Sophomore Bethany Rochefort said.

"I became more confident hitting the ball and learned to play more efficiently," Sophomore Claribell Quinones said.

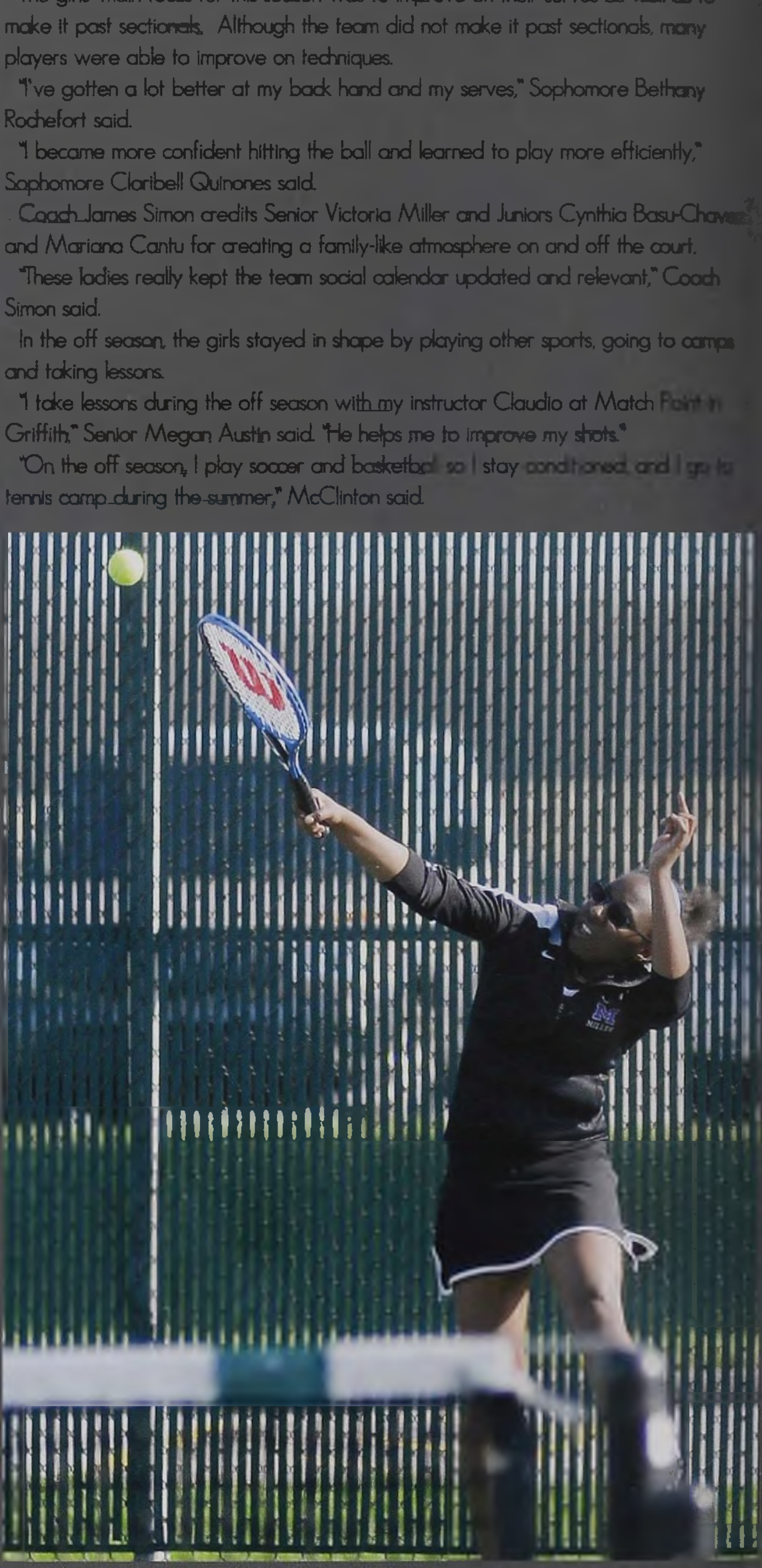
Coach James Simon credits Senior Victoria Miller and Juniors Cynthia Basu-Chavez and Mariana Cantu for creating a family-like atmosphere on and off the court.

"These ladies really kept the team social calendar updated and relevant," Coach Simon said.

In the off season, the girls stayed in shape by playing other sports, going to camps and taking lessons.

"I take lessons during the off season with my instructor Claudio at Match Point in Griffith," Senior Megan Austin said. "He helps me to improve my shots."

"On the off season, I play soccer and basketball so I stay conditioned and I go to tennis camp during the summer," McClinton said.



With her arm extended, Senior Victoria Miller attempts to make a high lob. "I was going for a high lob. That's when the opponent hits the ball in the air and the ball arches as it goes down," Miller said. Miller plays No. 1 Doubles with Erika McClinton. "I really love doubles. I have someone to watch my back," Miller said.

As the match begins, Sophomore Claribell Quinones makes the first serve. "I prefer to play singles because I believe I play more efficiently by myself," Quinones said. Quinones said she enjoyed being with the team.

Left: Traveling across the court, Senior Megan Austin sends the ball over the net. "I like that tennis requires different parts of the body to be conditioned," Austin said. "I also like the intelligence tennis requires. For example, knowing what angle to hit the ball in." This season, Austin played No. 2 doubles. Above: After the ball connects to the racket, Sophomore Bethany Rachelford follows on as it goes to the other side. "This season I really loved the team functions because this was the first year we did this. Last year, we were not as close," Rachelford said. "To prepare for games, I would hit the ball with the other teammates and run around the baseball field." Rachelford has been playing for 4 years. "I joined because I wanted to try something new." Right: Hands high in the air, Junior Mariana Cantu attempts to make a return. Despite the challenge of overcoming an injury, Cantu was able to still achieve her goals for the season. "The toughest thing about tennis is that the score doesn't show how well you play in the match," Cantu said.

Most Valuable Player

Charibell Quiroes

Leadership

Victoria Miller

Sportsmanship

Bethany Rachelford

Most Improved

Jessica Rodriguez

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Loss
Highland	W	3-2
Warsaw Tourney		7th
Lowell	W	4-1
Boone Grove	L	4-1
Hobart	L	4-1
LaPorte	L	4-1
Whiting	L	5-0
Valparaiso	L	5-0
Portage	L	5-1
Merrillville Varsity Invite		4th
Chesterton	L	5-0
Lake Central	L	4-1
Crown Point	L	5-0
Michigan City	L	5-0
Sectionals	L	4-1

Season Record: 2-11

Quick to react, Sophomore Erika McClinton attempts to return a ground stroke. "I am motivated by seeing how good other players are from different schools. It makes me want to play better," McClinton said. McClinton said the team really worked well together and had lots of bonding time. "Bonding was fun, and I love interacting with people," McClinton said.

Arms out and ready to stretch, Junior Cynthia Baez-Chavez [illegible] her racket. "The team is a lot closer this year. We're like a little family. Before every match, we pray together, and at the end of each match, we cheer each other on no matter what," Baez-Chavez said. During the off season, Baez-Chavez said she worked with private coaches. "I try to fix as much as I can," Baez-Chavez said.

Left: Another teammates watch, Freshman Kevin Fields high jumps to landon the mat. "It was a little hard at first, but after my first meet, it was a lot of fun," Fields said. Fields joined track to try something new after his basketball season ended. Above: With the pole in hand, Junior Garret Farrell hauls himself over to land on the mat. "My favorite experience about track is the rush I got before an event when we went down to regionals my freshmen year," Farrell said. "I feel as I advanced to regionals coming in first on pole vault. Right: Focused on getting better throws in discus, Junior Payton Ash puts all he can into his throw. "I have been in track since 8th grade" Ash said. "I've had problems staying focused throughout the season, but I've gotten a lot better. " Ash had to lift weights each day in order to make sure his technique was correct.

Most Valuable Player

Jonathon Robinson

Leadership

Reginald Tune

Sportsmanship

Tristan Cogill

Most Improved

Hurdling to the finish, Senior Elias Eaton does what he loves for his first year on varsity track. "My favorite parts of track are the competition, working out, running and cheering on my teammates," Eaton said. "My PR (personal record) is 110 in 18 seconds. I still have a lot to learn, but even with the short amount of time, it was very good coaching."

As he sprints, Sophomore Brandon Fassoth experiences track for the second year. "Practices are the most fun because I like working with other teammates and it's always interesting," Fassoth said. Growing up as a little kid, Fassoth enjoyed running and was always fast.

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
LaPorte	W	72-59
Homewood-Flossmoor		9th
Invite	W	
Chesterton	L	73-59
Portage		71-61
West Lafayette	L	2nd
Valparaiso	L	99-33
Lake Central		88-43
Lime City Relays	L	7th
Michigan City	L	68-64
Crown Point		88-43
DAC		7th
Sectionals		3rd
Regionals		8th

Season Record: 2-5

Change for the better

he Boys' Track team had to work as hard as they could in order to step and fill
several spots that were left open by the seniors that graduated the previous
ar.
n order to run forward a successful track season the boys had to prepare daily.
Athletes would have to run a mile in the fieldhouse along with players from other
orts.
Following the warm up, run and stretches, they would have to head to the weight
om to strengthen themselves.
All the hard work went toward good times and placing in the meets.
I made it to sectionals. At first I wasn't running too well but I knew I had to run my
st and I had to give it my all," Junior Byron Sales said.
As the team moved forward they have attempted to place at the first few spots in
rder to continue and advance to sectionals, regionals and state.
The team pushed harder and tried to keep each other motivated in order to run
eir best in the tougher meets.
I try to encourage my team that they can do it and remind them to try to get a
ood time in each of their events," Sales said.
The coaches tried to keep the boys disciplined and prepared by letting them know
e consequences of failure to meet standards within the classroom and when they
owed up at practices.
The boys had to maintain grades above an F, not cause trouble during school make
re they always wore the correct track gear and, overall, just push past their limits to
ow that they were capable of being better runners.

With his experience with track since sixth grade, Senior Byron Taylor runs the four by four at his track meet. Taylor loves being part of a team. "I hold strong bonds with my teammates," Taylor said. "Our main goal in track is to get better every day and strive to be successful, and you need encouraging teammates for that."

Running middle distance, Senior Reginald Turner competes against Lowell. Track includes various workouts to prepare the team for meets. "We warm up, then we split into skill," Turner said. "My favorite part of track is working out, so it's no problem for me." At sectionals, he ran 2:00.11 in the 800-meter run.

Soaring to new heights

With the loss of some key seniors, the returning girls had to take a stand for their team.

"We got a younger team, different work ethics but we still work hard to [illegible] meets," Junior Sydney Tucker said.

Many of the girls had similar goals for the season.

"Get better, win sectionals, beat LC and send everyone we can to state," Junior Jo Talley said.

"I'm trying my hardest," Junior Jordan Stanley said. "I'm number one in the area for shot put. My goals were to break 40 feet. I did that. I want to make it out of regionals."

Talley and Stanley, along with the rest of the team and coaching staff agreed on their team goals. They didn't exactly accomplish what they planned as a team, but they still placed in a high rank.

"Our number-one goal was to advance as many girls to state, number-two goal was to win conference, and number three was to win sectionals," Girls Track Coach Jeffrey Fairbairn said. "We finished both in second."

The Pirates came a little shy of their goals placing second in sectionals, third in regionals and sending three girls to state. Those who ventured off to state were Stanley, Sophomore Alivia Ash and Senior A'Leah Scott.

"My highlight of the season was getting three individuals down to state. Alivia is returning for the second time," Fairbairn said

Scott said this was her year to shine, her last time to accomplish her goals for the rest of her high school career, and she did it. After recovering from a wrist injury, she still made it to state and committed to Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne for track.

"It was a great experience. I was really nervous because it was real. I'm going to college. I was able to have my coaches there and family so they could experience it too. Being able to sit there where my cousin Jelly (Alumni Anjelica Peppers) sat was a great, amazing feeling," Scott said.

Scott also put together a senior night for the first time in Girls' Track history at Merrillville.

"I asked Ms. Q (Athletic Director Janis Qualizza) if she would allow us to have a senior night and she didn't mind. My mom bought roses and Mr. Teeter made posters," Scott said.

At the state competition Scott placed 15th in the 100-meter hurdles and in the high jump. Ash placed 8th in the high jump, and Stanley placed 14th in the discus throw.

High in the air, Junior Jordan McHenry tries to get a good distance in the long jump. Although this was McHenry's first year of track, she competed in the long jump, the 100-meter dash and the 300 hurdles. "I get nervous before I run because I know there are people faster than me, but I try not to let that get to me, and I always give myself a pep talk before I run," McHenry said.

Leaping high over the hurdle, Senior A'Leah Scott rushes to finish her 100 hurdles event. Scott has been running track for 11 years and got a partial scholarship to Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne. "Running track helps me relax and get things off my mind," Scott sai

Left: With her eyes on the finish line, Junior Ebony Harris sprints the 100-meter dash to pass her opponents. Harris started running track in fourth grade and continues to run because she likes to compete and win. "The season has been going good for me because I've been setting personal goals and achieving them," Harris said. Harris brought her 200-meter dash time down from 31 seconds to 28 seconds. Above: Before the 4x100 relay begins, Sophomore Hanna Allen helps teammate Sophomore Christian Gridiron get on her starting blocks. Even though Gridiron's best event is the 200-meter dash, she enjoys the 4X100 relay more because of the intensity of it. "I like running because I'm fast, and it's a good way to stay in shape and meet new people," Gridiron said. Right: Before she throws her shot put, Junior Jordan Stanley prepares by lifting her arm for balance and leverage. Stanley has been a part of the track team for five years. Stanley improved on discus distance from 101 feet to 107 feet. "I like it because I have a competitive edge and if someone is beating me, I want to go after them," Stanley said.

Most Valuable Player

Sheauquida Dillard

Leadership

A'Leah Scott

Sportsmanship

Tamera Jukes

Most Improved

Alize Smith

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
LaPorte	W	78-54
Cougar Invite		1st
Chesterton	L	75-57
Portage	W	79-53
West Lafayette Relays		2nd
Valparaiso	W	72-60
Lake Central	L	91-41
Lime City Relays		5th
Michigan City	W	94-38
Crown Point	W	68-64
NIAC		2nd
Sectionals		2nd
Regionals		3rd

Season Record: 5-2

With her competition behind her, Junior Megan Dziewicki continues to run the 2-mile. Before each event, Dziewicki tries to keep her mind off the event and completes her warm-ups and stretches. "I like the 2-mile because it's more like cross country," Dziewicki said.

First runner of the 4X400 relay, Junior Mattika Sweeney dashes off to complete her lap around the track. Sweeney started to run seven years ago and participates in the 400-meter dash and the 4X400 relay. "I like the 4X400 more because I'm less nervous when running it than when I'm running the 400," Sweeney said.

Left: As he runs across home plate, Senior Jose Gonzalez scores a run on the other team. With 11 years of playing experience, Gonzalez has found inspiration in Major League Baseball stars. "I have two role models that I aspire to play, Derek Jeter and Troy Tulowitzki," Gonzalez said. To prepare for games, Gonzalez listens to music while trying to stay relaxed. Above: As he slides into third base, Junior Thomas Butler tries not to get out. "As a team, I think we could have done better, but individually, I felt I exceeded my expectations," Butler said. One of Butler's goals was to bat better than .350 and have 10 stolen bases. Right: As he kneels with glove in hand, Junior Terrance Grayson fields a ground ball. "This season, I want to overcome the adversities as a main goal," Grayson said. To stay motivated, Grayson keeps the team hyped and brings his "meanest" teddy bear to keep everyone positive.

Most Valuable Palyer

Brett Deline

Leadership

Jonathon Streck

Sportsmanship

Jose Gonzalez

Most Improved

Ryan Brady

Pitching to the batter, Senior Brett Deline hopes to strike out the player. "This season started out rough, but as the season progressed, we got better," Deline said. He prepares for games by staying focused and blocking out all distractions. Deline ended his high school career pitching seven complete games.

With his eyes on the ball, Junior Jonathon Streck prepares to catch the pitch. "Playing the catcher position, my main goal is to not let any balls get behind me," he said. Streck finished the season with fourteen singles, the third most on the team. He has been playing baseball for 14 years.

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Boone Grove	L	11-1
Hobart	L	11-1
Munster	L	11-0
Washington Township	L	12-2
Highland	L	5-4
Lowell	L	9-5
LaPorte	W	3-2
Crown Point	L	17-0
Kankakee Valley	L	9-2
Portage	L	12-1
Lake Central	L	10-0
Chesterton	L	14-4
Valparaiso	L	8-0
Michigan City	L	17-2
LaPorte	L	10-0
Crown Point	L	14-2
Portage	L	10-0
Lake Central	L	17-2
Chesterton	L	14-2
Bishop Noll	W	4-3
Valparaiso	L	10-3
Michigan City	L	3-0
West Lafayette	W	2-0
	L	8-7
Morton	L	3-1
Sectionals	L	10-0

Season Record: 3-25

Despite losses, Pirates remain hopeful

With a large turnout at tryouts Head Varsity Coach Mark Schellinger was able to welcome to the team 13 new players to create a team of 18.

Coach Schellinger said he looked forward to training the newcomers.

"Tryouts turned out good. We had good numbers," he said. "During tryouts we looked at a lot of drills to see who had certain skills to play baseball."

"We are young and inexperienced this year," Coach Schellinger added. "We did a lot of work to prepare the boys and focused on their skills and put pressure on them so that they are ready for the season."

The team suffered six losses before their first win against LaPorte. Coach Schellinger said that they didn't have the best start, and it was hard to keep competing after that, but the team never gave up and they battled until the end.

"Every game is different," Senior Jose Gonzalez said. "Sometimes we do good on defense and bad on offense and sometimes we do good on offense and bad on defense."

"We sometimes have a lack of focus and mental and physical errors, which cost us games," Senior Evan Delrow added.

Coach Schellinger said his pitchers looked to the seniors for leadership in tight game situations.

"I have been happy and proud of our seniors. They are showing the young guys how to do things the right way," Coach Schellinger said.

The regular season ended and it was time for sectionals. For the first round of sectionals the boys drew Hobart.

"My goal is for us to play the best we can play the right way and win sectionals," Delrow said.

The Pirates ended the season with a 3-23 record.

"Though the season didn't pan out the way we wanted, everything happens for a reason," Junior Jonathon Streit said.

Standing in position, Junior David Orzechowicz prepares to hit the ball. "Listening to music and trying to focus on nothing else but the game is the way I prepare myself for a game," Orzechowicz said. He has been playing since his father suggested he try it.

With his arm stretched back, Junior William Ballard throws the ball to his teammate. "My biggest expectation is to have a winning percentage of .500," Ballard said. Ballard has been playing since he was little and hopes to see improvement as the season progresses.

Always one step ahead

In the recent years the Merrillville Softball coaches began building up a program from the past years of many losses. During the season, players worked hard and tried to stay positive as a new team was being constructed around them. It took hard work and perseverance to win their first Duneland Athletic Conference game in three years against Michigan City. The team was pumped and ready for the rest of the season.

Two freshmen joined the team this year as starters in the infield. One of the freshmen was Makayla Pearson (2), the starting third baseman.

"At the beginning, I expected to be better than the team last year and improve, which we did." Pearson said. "It is a great experience playing with girls who are older than me. I learn a lot from them."

A couple of the players worked in the off season to help prepare for the season.

"Off season, I play for travel ball. Even in the winter we play tournaments." Junior Chloe Nelson (24) said. "Before tryouts, I went to my hitting instructor to prepare."

"In the off season, I play travel softball and work with my hitting coach to tune up my skills," Pearson said.

The team was well-bonded and close-knit, according to Nelson.

"Highlights were hitting two home runs, of course, but really bonding as a team. I've never been so close with so many people before. This is the first time I can look at everyone on the team and really say that I love them all."

During the season, the team was led by Senior, Ashley Hansbury (11).

"I feel like I had to be a better leader because I was the only senior," Hansbury said. "I lead the team by being vocal and trying to keep my head up." Coach Kristina Sides said that Hansbury was the main leader on the team.

Every team faces challenges throughout the season.

"The only challenge this year was to get the girls to realize that they were an amazing team with amazing talent." Coach Sides said. "I just hoped that the girls would come together and play as a team. Also, to prove to everyone that they were here to play and win games."

According to Coach Sides, players did improve during the season.

"I had a lot of girls improve this season. (Junior) Nicole Peterson (17), (Junior) Tammye Nelson (14), (Sophomore) Angel Munchenburg (5) and Ashley Hansbury," Coach Sides said.

According to Coach Sides, the strengths of the team were pitching, catching and fielding, while weaknesses consisted of being pressured and batting.

"My goals for this season were to win games, get the girls to build confidence in themselves and to play as a team," Coach Sides said.

Her goals to win games and play as a team were completed throughout the season, according to her players.

The team played Crown Point in sectionals and lost, but Coach Sides said they played with heart and left everything on the field.

Stepping on the plate as her coach throws her arms up, Sophomore Angel Munchenburg (5) scores the game-winning run. "I felt great. I knew it had to be done and I had to score. It was a lot of pressure, but when Coach screamed 'go', I knew I had to run my hardest and get there," Munchenburg said. Munchenburg has been playing since the second grade and said she has enjoyed every minute on the field.

Focusing on getting the ball in her glove, Junior Tammye Nelson (14) fields a ball at second base. "I feel some sort of pressure when the ball comes to me," Nelson said. "I feel like I'm the center of attention, but I still make sure I get the out." Nelson said she feels accomplished after she successfully fields the ball and gets the out, and especially accomplished when she gets a good play.

Left: In perfect position to catch a foul ball, Senior Ashley Hansbury (11) works hard to help her team win. "Catching the ball made me happy," Hansbury said. "Softball helps me clear my mind." The girls agree that they are a family, and they play like a team. Above: While her eyes are focused on the ball, Junior Chloe Nelson (24) swings and puts the ball in play. "Before the season started, I went to my hitting instructor to prepare for tryouts," Nelson said. Nelson said her strength was hitting the ball hard. She hit two home runs during the season. Right: With her glove up and ready, Junior Nicole Peterson (17) prepares to catch a foul ball. "I felt like I accomplished something," Peterson said. The excitement ran through her as her catch of the foul ball led the team to a win against Michigan City.

Most Valuable Player & Leadership

Ashley Hansbury

Sportsmanship

Arianne Cam

Most Improved

Nicole Peterson

SCOREBOARD

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Hammond Bishop Noll	L	7-1
Kouts	W	5-4
Volparaiso	L	10-4
Hebron	L	5-4
Michigan City	W	4-3
LaPorte	L	2-0
Portage	L	12-2
Lake Central	L	11-0
Chesterton	L	10-6
Lowell	L	10-0
Valparaiso	L	6-5
Michigan City	L	16-2
LaPorte	L	7-1
Crown Point	L	13-0
Lake Central	L	10-0
Portage	L	10-0
Hammond	W	11-1
Chesterton	L	13-1
Sectionals	L	10-0

Season Record 3 - 16

The girls surround their teammate freshman Jennifer Villanueva (13) after she hit an out-of-the-park home run. "I was so happy," Villanueva said. "Softball is life." Even though they lost the game against the Valparaiso Girls' Softball team, they were still proud of their teammate.

Just having received the ball, Freshman Makayla Pearson (21) starts to throw it to first base. "I love the games," Pearson said. "I get to play defense and make new friends." Pearson is a third baseman and loves how hardworking and close her team is.

Varsity and Junior Varsity Football

Head Coach: Zac Wells

Front Row: Ronnie Giles Jr., Ryan Taylor , Aaron Woodson, Juan Martinez III, Corey Sanders, Denzel Young, Brandon McCallister, Joseph Smith, Elijah Ray, Adam Serros, Sergio Mendoza, Shawn Forbes; Second Row: Jannel Boyd, Selena Diaz, Kathryn Sarsfield, Darrin Funches Jr., Joel Martin, Terry Jackson, Thomas Butler, Jacob Covaciu, Thomas Jones, Shane Brousseau, Nicholas Hayes, Terrance Grayson, Shareef Cauley, Kennedy Wilck, A'Leah Scott, Jacqueline DeLeon, Angelica Navarro; Third Row: Melanie Atria, Annie Gonzalez, Susan Hayes, Coach Josh Sabinas, Coach Joseph Atria, Coach D.J. Macarthy, Coach Sean Kinsey, Coach Jacob Stafford, Coach Wells, Coach Joseph O'Connell, Coach Brian Parker, Coach Bill Crosby, Coach Zach Sliwa, Coach Jarett Jordan, Coach Robert Gardner, Coach Dennis Hamilton, Joshua Bradley, Rachel Galante; Fourth row: Myles Taylor, Niles Bell, Xavier Crenshaw, Eein Harmon, Michael Pearson, Jonathon Robinson, Tyrie Fuller, Aaron Lott, Ryan Taylor, Justin Griffin, Craig Burns Jr., Bryant Isabell, Daniel Eldridge, Brian Kelly, Dewrell Hobson III, Kamau Richardson, Darnell Robinson; Fifth row: Davon Smith, JoRale Wheeler, Marlon Turner, Diante' Montgomery, Cantrell Henderson, Joseph Turley, Salvador Higareda, Dakota South, Desmond Thomas, Carl Jones, Jalen Williams, Tre'Von Harris, Isaiah Thornton, Tyreece Jones, Dijonte Davis, Evin Kennedy; Back Row: Shawn Streck, Tristan Coghill, Thomas Scolaro, Ryan Neal, Jairus-Michael Perry, Collins Mbachu, Matthew Sims, Abdul-Raqib Cox, Adam Neal, Montana Williams, Demond Wilkins Jr., Anthony Tucker, Jeffrey Colby, Frank Webster, Ray'Quan Williams.

Freshman Football

Coach: D.J. McCarthy, Rob Gardner, Zach Silwa

Front row: T'Wuan Sallee-Lindsay, Kyle McCallister, Brandon Bramson, TyRaye Austin, Shannon Pardue, Justin Smith, Nathan Potter, David Nash, Michail Williams; Second row: Terry Sabbath, DAiquan Ford, Alex Carter, Michael Poterfeild, Dewayne Holbrook, Aaron Clarkson, Justin Cherry, Brandon James, Blake Turley; Third row: Coach Maccarthy, Caleb Stacker, Larry Banks, Opeymi Akinbobuyi, Andrew Vander Woude, Coach Sliwa, Jakoby Perry, John Ohiani-Jegede, Moses Johnson, Antonio Balducci, Coach Robinson; Forth row: Carl Strokes, Kenyatta Smith, Darius Hutch, Romep Hoover, Kejuan Thomas, Thomas Golden, Justin Spinls-Moxey; Fifth row: Jay'lon Gordon, Isaiah Davis, Alfred Stubbs, Anthony Sams, London Holley, Sean Roche'; Back row: Cameron Wilbon, Milan Trajkovski, Mouhammed Diallo, James Kirklen, Matthew Mallon.

Boys' Cross Country
Coach: Mike Hoffman
Front row: Donovan Carpenter, Arion Walton; Second row: Andrew Merced, Justin Johnson, Miguel Tapia, Dondre Minnion, Bradley Salka; Back row: Coach Patrick Coffey, Brandon Hurson, Conor Hill, Marcus Jones, Reginald Turner, Logan Glover, Michael Johnson II, Coach Hoffman. Not Pictured: Tyreak Thomas.

Girls' Cross Country
Coach: Patrick Coffey
Front row: Aryana Randall, Ashley Walton, Aaliyah Tapia, Gabrielle Stewart; Second row: Eryn Jenkins, Angelic Tillman, Moniel Sanders, Tamera Julkes, Khandi King; Back row: Coach Coffey, Claret Diaz, Jayna Moore, Tyhlar Sain, Anna Feliciano, Kayleigh Champion, Megan Dziewicki, Chloe Howard, Coach Michael Hoffman.

Girls' Varsity Soccer
Coach: Benjamin Daniel
Front row: Imani Smith, Morgan Bonick, Karina Garcia, Hope Krajnak, Second row: Elizabeth Croy, Jessica Rodriguez, Symantha Croy, Katy Guzek, Alyssa Bailey, Rebecca Knight, Shaquita Dillard, Meagan Clarkson, Cassandra Govert; Back row: Coach Jason Kendera, Hannah Dixon, DeLaney Richards, Erika McClinton, Rachel Humes, Kirsten Wiley, Jayana Wolak, Erica Dixon, Samantha Dixon, Chloe Stone, Coach Tammy Deel, Coach Daniel.

Girls' Junior Varsity Soccer
Coach: Tammy Deel
Front row: Aiyana Glover, Brianna Brown, Imani Smith, Viridiana Carrillo, Grettel Peralta, Hope Krajnak, Kathleen Aton, Karina Garcia; Back row: Coach Deel, Chloe Stone, Victoria Frey, Cassandra Govert, Niesha Aaron, Tirsa Mercado, Samantha Dixon, Carolina Henderson.

Boys' Junior Varsity Soccer
Coach: Rick Hurey
Front row: Oscar Hernandez, David Lagunas, Victor Gutierrez, Edgar Valdez, Michael DeLaPena, Ernesto Lopez, Maxwell Stevens, Brian Baran, David Ramirez, Brandon Taylor; Back row: Coach Hurey, Coach Brian Past, Adrian Rodriguez, Jonathan Serrato, Christopher Rodriguez, Vincent Corralez, Edgar Rodriguez, Asia Barron, Alfredo Zuniga, Joseph Krutz, Assistant Coach Jeff Jelenek. Not pictured: Juan Padilla

Boys' Varsity Soccer
Coach: Brian Past
Front row: Jeremiah Jones, Ryan Soto, Gabriel Carbajal, Jorge Osorio, Joshua Jones, Gregory Vega, Eduardo Yanez, Arnold Sanchez, David Rodriguez; Back row: Assistant Coach Rick Hurey, Coach Past, Andres Carrillo, Damian DiGangi, Jacob Carey, Vincent Corralez, Bradley Brack, Jamal Duke, Alexander Begala, Andres Santiago, Chiamara Anokwute, Christopher Rodriguez, Assistant Coach Jeff Jelenek. Not pictured: Jose Gonzalez.

Boys' Tennis

Coach: James Simon

Front row: Fernando Leon, Joseph Harris, Derel Shell, Jason Bell Jr; Second row: Ayron Williams, Marcus Miller, Deion Charleston, Robert Taylor, Alonzo Brown III; Back row: Nygel Jackson, David Hinton II, Steffan Santiago, Ronald Mayersky Jr, Michael Spicknall, Micah Burgstahler, Samuel Dinka.

Girls' Golf

Coach Patti Tubbs

Front row: Kathryn Jurczyk, Brianna Cole, Maryam Ali. Back row: Coach Tubbs, Kelci Coker, Kayla Grant, Maggie Connelly, Angel Munchenburg, Victoria Thompson.

Varsity Volleyball

Head Coach: Luke Starkey

Front row: Ashley Hansbury; Second row: Mariah Marcano; Back row: Samantha Lee, Jaz Talley, Riana Todd, Victoria Gaines, Morgan Harris, Myranda Harris, Maya Griffin.

Junior Varsity Volleyball

Coach Lisa Saberniak

Front row: Chelsea Jackson, Aubren Rosas, Angela Toomer; Second row: Jenna Jurczyk, Kelsey Harvey, Alexandra Chambliss, Emily Glover, Ireon Smith; Third row: Jordan McDonald, Taejah Harris, Tori Bryant, Ashley Ojo, Tiara Pruitt, Makayla Pearson.

Wrestling

Coach: David Maldonado

Front row: Kali Stevens, Felipe Godinez, Anthony Lee, Michael Rosa, Donovan Carpenter, Andrew Merced, James Davis, Michael Garza, Ronnie Giles, Elijah Ray, Aaron Woodson, Miguel Martinez, Michael De La Pena, Skye Martin; Second row: Cassandra Lopez, Meagan Clarkson, Nathan Potter, Kenneth Smith, Raymond Duque, Clarence Johnson, Miguel Tapia, Justin Johnson, Michael Martin, Romeo Munoz, Corvon Shelton, TyRaye Austin, Larry Clark, Emily DeCausemaker, Andria Woodworth, Third row; Coach John Cantu, Coach Gene Bierman, Coach Michael Lawrence, Blake Turley, Jacob Covaciu, Willie Armstrong, Christian Hamilton, Devon Greer, Antonio Balducci, Enrique Jones, Devon Harmon, Timothy Howard, Coach Bob Heckler, Coach Maldonado, Coach Rob Petyko; Fourth row; Thomas Butler, Issac Rentas, Kamau Richardson, Stacy Martin-Ellison Jr., Colton Maynard, Justin Moxi, Elijah Coy, Matthew Mallon, Andrew Vander Woude, Orlando Lopez; Back row: Derek Scott, Nathan Martin-Ellison, Anthony Turner, Shawn Streck, Jairus Perry, Matthew Hollins, Deven Lee, Montana Williams, Darius Hutch.

Boys' Varsity Basketball
Coach: T.J. Lux
Front row: Shareef Cauley, Shane Brousseau, Isaac Johnson; Second row: Marcel Cherry, Diante' Montgomery, Derrick Frazier, Jonah Jackson, Michaud Cherry; Third row: Demetrious McKeethen, Xayvion Williams, Fard Muhammad, Demond Wilkins Jr., James Wright III, Jairus Stevens; Back row: Assistant Coach Brian Fogarty, Coach Lux, Assistant Coach Bo Patton.

Girls' Varsity Basketball
Coach: Amy Govert
Front row: Shaquita Dillard, Jasmine Wright, Audrianna Downs, Alexus Shirrells, Kelsey Harvey; Second row: Tadja Outlar, Myranda Harris, Kristin McGee, Kiara Thompson, Niesha Aaron; Back row: Coach Govert, Victoria Gaines, Riana Todd, Jaz Talley, Erika McClinton, Assistant Coach Luke Starkey.

Boys' JV Basketball
Coach: Brian Fogarty
Front row: Daniel Taylor, Isaiah Martinez, Sharrod Mitchell, Mitchell Ward Jr.; Second row: Coach Fogarty, Jourdin Bandy, Charles Jacobs II, Devin Martin, Assistant Coach Bo Patton; Back row: Marcel Cherry, Matthew Meux, Marcus Robinson, Jonah Jackson

Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball
Coach: Britney Cruse
Front row: Miracle Akins, Precious Carter, Ceana Escalante, Chelsea Jackson, Carissa Lewis, Christian Gridiron; Second row: Deanna Cannon, Makayla Pearson, Kelsey Harvey, Kaja Sims; Back row: Coach Cruse, Ashiala Jackson, Raegeine Thomas, Kristin McGee, Assistant Coach Christina Brown.

Freshman Boys' Basketball
Coach: Michael Holden
Front row: Justin Smith, Deven Nguyen, Jalen Sherwood, Kevin Fields, Sean Roche'; Second row: Nickoleus Riley, Ja'Various Dixon, James Kirklen, Alfred Stubbs; Back row: Covieyon Glover, Mileek McMillan, Coach Holden, Cameron Wilbon, Mouhamed Diallo.

Girls' Swimming
Coach: Ladd Downham
Front row: Ebonie Ali, Imani Smith, Robin Townsend, Caitlinn Caddick, Kennedy Wilds; Second row: Jennifer Meloy, Maggie Connelly, Hannah Sawyer; Back row: Briana Raketic, Coach Josh Harvoth, Coach Sara Stallings, Coach Downham.

Dance Team

Coaches: Celia Pollard and Latoya Tyson

Front row: Charity Gilkey, Jasmin Pollard, Larissa Harris, Yvonya Randle, Marshawna Kendrick, Naeemah White; Back row: Brittany Jewell, Jacqueline Pollard, Da'Ja'Nay Askew, Xeria Griffin, Cynequa Cross, Jamese Lewis, Marlana de Moraes Emiliano, Katherine Williamson, Armen Sims; Not pictured: Leona Wheeler.

Junior Varsity Baseball

Coaches: Tyler Schieve, Nick Roberts

Front row: Isaiah Hernandez, Nathan Potter, Roberto Carbajal, Carlos Perez; Second row: Meagan Clarkson, Thomas Hansbury III, Aaron Clarkson, Chad Deline, Austin Brakley-Lain, Ayron Williams; Back row: Coach Schieve, Cole Scott, Michael Pearson Jr., Matthew Mallon, Jeremy Herrod, Coach Roberts.

Varsity Baseball

Coach: Mr. Mark Schellinger

Front row: Rachel Galante, Omar Ramirez Jr., Jonathan Sutherland, William Ballard, Ryan Brady, Thomas Butler Jr., Nathan Potter, Terrance Grayson, Meagan Clarkson; Second row: Coach Schellinger, Coach Connor Buxton, Coach Brian Parker, David Orzechowicz, James Sutherland III, Aaron Clarkson, Coach John Kwiatkoski, Coach Darryl Evans; Back row: Jonathan Streck, Vejer Cox, Brett Deline, Craig Burns, Jose Gonzalez, Darius Kendall, Matthew Meux.

Gymnastics

Coach: Diane Roberts

First row: Taylor Woods, Jazmyne Magee, Heather Osorio; Second row: Jonathan Streck, Jannel Boyd, Ashlee Fields, Sabrina Sanchez, Mikayla Harmon, Jose Gonzalez; Back row: Coach Nick Roberts, Hunter Kaiser, Kristina Goodman, Bethany Rochefort, Morgan Harris, Coach Roberts.

Boys' Swimming & Diving

Coach: Ladd Downham

Front row: Brian Baran, Darshawn Woodard, Jason Jones, Carlton Jones, Diontae Phillips, Alton Desadier III; Second row: Aaron Fuller, Gregory Vega Jr., David Osorio, Joseph Harris II; Third row: Javaun Willis, Dwayne Fitzpatrick Jr., Aaron Corralez, Tevon Cooper, Wesley Babilonia; Fourth row: Anthony Hardin, Joshus Hiller, Sebatian Kofoed, Damian DiGangi; Back row: Brianna Raketic, Assistant Coach Josh Harvoth, Assistant Coach Sara Stallings, Coach Downham.

Boys' Golf

Coach: Ms. Patti Tubbs

Front row: Michael Robinson, Elijah Royal, Jason Bell Jr., Andrew Gross, Nicholas Hayes, Marcus Norton, Robert Nielsen, Larry Banks III; Second row: Ricky Heath Jr., Kyle Krause, Daryl Murray Jr., Coach Tubbs, Joshua Hiller, Victor-Jacobli Boyd, Marlon Turner II.

unior Varsity Softball
Coach: Bill Kornacki
Front row: Viridiana Carrillo, Alexandra Chambliss, Emily Glover, Cynthia Gomez, Allison Vanderbilt; Back row: Coach Adam Fricke, Jasmine Sanders, Breanne Downing, Tirsa Mercado, Victoria Thompson, Diamond Allen, Coach Kornacki.

Varsity Softball
Head Coach: Kristina Sides
Front row: Nicole Peterson, Araceli Hernandez, Ashley Hansbury, Ireon Smith, Jennifer Villanueva, Arianne Conn; Back row: Coach Sides, Kristin McGee, Makayla Pearson, Alexander Begala, Angel Munchenburg, Tommye Nelson, Coach Kaitlyn O'Brien.

Boys' Track & Field
Head Coach: Mr. Patrick Coffey
Front row: Theodore Roberts, Elijah Ray, Christopher Newman, David Walls, Ronnie Giles Jr., Michael De La Pena, Josh Bradley; Second row: Dondre Minnion , Michael Johnson II, Nicholas Doneski, Nicholas Owens, Cameron Bracey, Brandon Hurson, Jordan Young, Michael Sparks Jr., Montriel Shell; Third row: Brandon Fassoth, Jonathon Robinson, Terry Jackson, Reginald Turner, Marcus Jones, Byron Taylor, Nygel Jackson, Lamonteon Williams; Fourth row: Elias Eaton, Matthew Thompson, Isaiah Thornton, Tyrie Fuller, Myles Taylor, Anthony Sams Jr.; Fifth row: Coach Anthony Curry, Jordan Baldwin, Justin Turner Jr, Ray-Quan Hampton, Evin Kennedy, Day'Shoun Robinson, Brian Sales; Back row: Coach Luis Lopez, Quentin Barnslater Jr., Jarius-Michael Perry, Collins Mbachu, Brendon Bistrican, Jeffery Colby, Tristan Coghill, Payton Ash, Coach Ben Daniel, Coach Coffey.

Girls' Tennis
Coach: James Simon
Front row: Victoria Terry, Sara Ramirez, Alice Canchola, Jessica Rodriguez, Mariah Jimenez, Claribell Quinones, Jazlyn Martinez, Hope Krajnak; Second row: Illaha Abdul, Christian Luckett, Cynthia Basu-Chavez, Mariana Cantu, Allyssa Mihal, Angela Terry, Janae Williams; Back row: Megan Austin, Emily DeCausemaker, Isobel Collins, Victoria Miller, Erika McClinton, Kamaria Richardson, Bethany Rochefort.

Cheerleaders
Coach: Lori Govert
Front row: Keristen Lucero, Briah Stinson, Jourdain Rogers, Whitney Reese, Shawnay Lardydell, Kristin Thornton, Serina Ford, Khaila Sanchez; Back row: Tiffany Holst, Ivori Fulton, Dominique Carpenter, DeLaney Richards, Alysa Lucero, Mary Ann Wallace, Samantha Kale, Miracle Akins, Haley Funches, Mallorie Michalak, Autumn Carrero.

Girls' Track & Field
Coach: Jeffrey Fairbairn
Front row: Jasmine Wright, Camille Ochoa, Ebony Harris, Kinicki Thompson, Caitlin Darrell, Christian Gridiron, Aryana Randall, Ashley Walton, Gabrielle Stewart; Second row: A'Leah Scott, Rebecca Knight, Alize Smith, Jordan McHenry, Tamera Julkes, Shaquita Dillard, Crystal Cabrera, Ivori Fulton, Eryn Jenkins; Third row: Sydney Tucker, Claret Diaz, Abigail Martinez, Naeemah White, Robin Townsend, Kiara Key, Renee Bozeman, Brianna Brown, Angelic Tillman; Fourth row: Hannah Allen, Kiarra Thompson, Zarria Moss, Malika Sweeney, Kelsey Harvey, Samantha Dixon, Erica Dixon, Maya Griffin, Jayna Moore, Kayleigh Champion; Fifth row: Alivia Ash, Jordan Stanley, Charysse James, Ashiala Jackson, Jordan McDonald, Nicole Webster, Jaz Talley, Megan Dziewicki, Carnisa Laster, Back row: Coach Jeffrey Eaton, Coach Mike Hoffman, Coach Fairbairn, Coach Tiera Simpson.

At the holiday band concert, Senior Katelyn Haddaway plays her clarinet. "It's unique," Haddaway said. "It's a lot harder to play than most instruments." Haddaway has been playing since the sixth grade. Her hard work earned her a place in top band and many different awards and titles.

During the pep rally to honor Mr. Krutz for winning the award of Principal of the Year, Juniors Christopher Rodriguez, Brandon Taylor and Austin Shea hold up a sign to designate where the juniors sit. "It was nice to see how the whole school came together," Rodriguez said. "We honored our principal for a job well done."

Participating in the Goofy Games for their class, Sophomores Selena Drake and Angela Terry play the board game Twister. "I had fun because it brought the class together. At school, you're all spread out," Drake said. "It was nice to work as a team."

During his third period activities class, Physical Education teacher Mr. Brian Zdych teaches his students about flag football. "You have to be patient with the students," Mr. Zdych said. "You have to get every kid to try." Mr. Zdych only teaches physical education classes, PE1 and PE2. He enjoys being a physical education teacher because he is physically active and wants to spread that to high school students.

Mr. Zdych discovers third time's the charm

In March, Physical Education teacher Mr. Brian Zdych joined 19 other teachers in being named Teacher of the Month.

"It was awesome," Mr. Zdych said. "Being honored by the students and teachers is sweet. It's something that's very dear to me."

Mr. Zdych won the award going on his seventh year of teaching Physical Education. It took him three tries to decide which major he was going to pursue in college. Starting out as a business major, and soon realizing he did not like business, he decided to switch to history.

"I hated history," Mr. Zdych said. "I kept falling asleep in class."

Finally, Mr. Zdych decided on his Physical Education major. He knew that he loved physical activity, so becoming a gym teacher seemed right.

"Third time's the charm," Mr. Zdych said.

His chosen career turned out well for him. Mr. Zdych loves being a teacher and the opportunities it brings.

"My favorite thing about teaching is the look on a kid's face when they get it," Mr. Zdych said. "Even the girl who never scores a goal, and she finally does. She gets so excited, like, 'Mr. Zdych! I got it!' Then she runs around the field house screaming. It's great."

Even though Mr. Zdych teaches for a living, he learns something new every day. Being a teacher has taught him patience, organization and how each student is an individual that may require a different way of teaching.

"It's a process," Mr. Zdych said. "You starting thinking that you're doing something right, and then it changes. Every second, anything and everything changes. You can never get comfortable."

Never I have ever...

"Never have I ever gotten in trouble."
Alyssia Whiteside

"Never have I ever had swag."
Brenden Perez

"Never have I ever ditched school."
Amari Smith McPhee

"Never have I ever ridden a motorcycle."
Dakota Sampson

"Never have I ever had a grade lower than a B-."
Alisha Mongold

"Never have I ever worn a pair of pattern pants."
Jahnari Pruitt

"Never have I ever gone on stage."
Kylen Terrell

"Never have I ever failed a class."
Kendrick Smith

"Never have I ever had an F."
Karrington Davis

Officers stay involved while handling class affairs

Organizing fundraisers, ordering class shirts and bringing their classmates together for the first time at Homecoming kept the four officers busy from the beginning of the school year.

In their first year of high school, the freshmen took first place with their Japanese theme float at the Homecoming Parade.

"We chose to do the Japanese theme because Freshman Jahnari Pruitt studies Japanese culture and it was easy to think of float ideas with her knowledge," President Breshaye Spear said.

Off the clock, the officers are busy.

"My favorite class is band because it is a relief in the middle of the day," Spear said.

Spear is enrolled in honors classes. In band, she plays the clarinet and the saxophone. She said she hopes to make a difference in the school by participating in Student Government meetings and school activities.

After high school, Spear wants to major in business and criminal justice while attending University of California at Los Angeles. Spear leads the class with three officers.

English teacher Mrs. Sara Gleason is Vice President Torian Bryant's favorite teacher. "She is funny and she teaches really well so you can understand everything," Bryant said.

Bryant participates in Girl Scouts outside of school, and in school the honors student plays in the orchestra. She is not quite sure what career path she wants to follow yet, but she plans to go to Indiana University Bloomington.

"My dad motivates me because he is the greatest person I know and he is very successful in life," Secretary Morgan Brinker said.

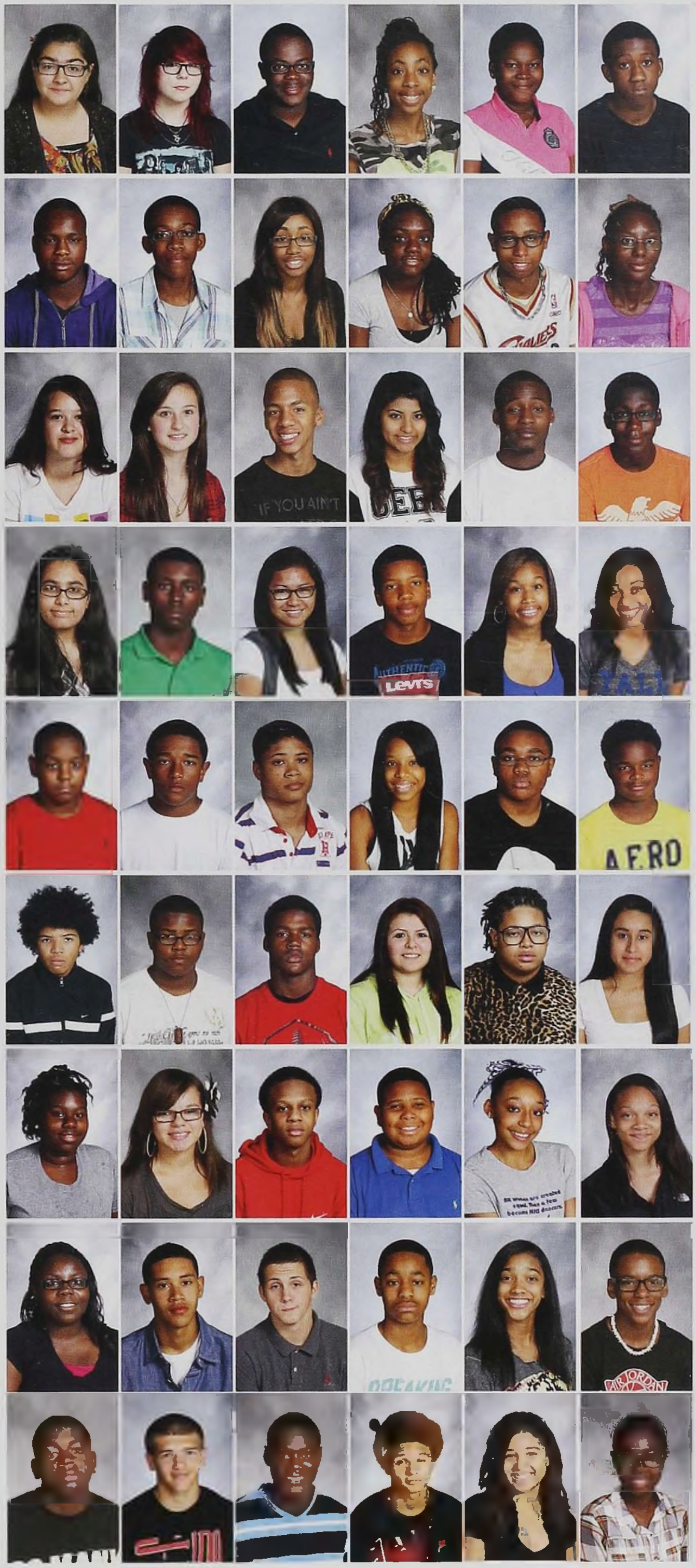
Brinker takes three honors classes along with orchestra and gym class. She wants to major in psychology and go to Columbia University in New York City.

"My family motivates me because they really support and they want me to make it in the world," Treasurer Princess Graham said.

Graham is involved with the Thespian Troupe and Student Government.

After high school, Graham hopes to go to Valparaiso University and become a marriage counselor.

Class officers are Princess Graham, Breshaye Spear, President, Torian Bryant, Vice President; Morgan Brinker, Secretary.



Illaha Abdul
Cheyenne Adams
Jalen Adams
Areeana Adeniyi
Ademide Akanbi
Christian Akinbobuyi

Opeyemi Akinbobuyi
Gerald Akujobi Jr.
Jadda Alexander
Ebonie Ali
Adrian Allen
Jenise Allen

Kaitlyn Ammerman
Abigayle Anderson
Brandon Anderson
Angela Arellano
King Armstead
Nana Asabere

Sairah Asghar
Ronald Atkinson Jr.
Kathleen Aton
TyRaye Austin
Breonna Baggett
Airyanna Bailey

Michael Baker
Antonio Balducci
John Baldwin
Ashli Ballard
Anthony Banks
Larry Banks

Traevon Banks
Va'Quon Banks
Quinten Barnslater Jr.
Fernanda Barrera
Demond Beatty
Jennifer Bedolla

Brittany Bell
Shyann Bell
Kendall Best
Quonte Biffle
Madison Blackwell
NaYa Blackwell

Unique Blakely
Aaron Booker
Connor Bowen
Jerry Boyd
Renee Bozeman
Malik Bradley

Ricky Broggs
Branden Bramson
De Andre Brewer
Wakeylon Briner
Waukesha Briner
Morgan Brinker

What are you looking forward to in high school?

"Meeting new people and getting to do new things."
Ashlee Fields

"I'm looking forward to having a great football season throughout high school."
Kenyatta Smith

"I want to get a scholorship for football"
Carl Stocks

"Getting through high school to be able to participate in senior activities."
Renee Bozeman

Samuel Brnicky
Suzanna Broom
Brianna Brown
Joe Brown
Tyshona Brown
Timoya Bryant
Torian Bryant

Brandell Burrell
Vanessa Bush
Christopher Bynum
Shakayla Bynum-Crenshaw
Isaac Caballero
Jacob Cabrera
Kamari Cage

Azariah Campbell
Symone Campero
Deangelo Cannon
Debora Caraballo-Rivera
Maria Carbajal
Roberto Carbajal
Tyler Carlisle

Austin Carrero
Autumn Carrero
Arianna Carrillo
Julianna Carrillo
Precious Carter
Alex Carter III
Da'Vionne Caruthers

Roy Castellanos
Christian Chambers
Christine Chambers
Alexandra Chambliss
Tequila Chandler
Deion Charleston Jr.
Marshon Clark Jr.

Aaron Clarkson
Arreyonta Clayton
Jalah Cleveland
Isaiah Clinton
Brittany Coleman
Isobel Collins
Ivan Cook

Perry Coria Jr.
Aaron Corra'ez
Warren Cowherd
Keenan Crawford
John Crawley
Tatyanah Cross
Elizabeth Croy

Antonio Cruz Jr.
Nicolette Cummins
Dakari Cundiff
Jack Daniel
Darryn Daniels
Isaiah Davis
James Davis

Jazaniel Davis
Karrington Davis
Kyle Davis
Emily DeCausemaker
Michael Delapena
Karla DeLeon
Alton Desadier III

Mouhamed Diallo
Moises Diaz
Ja'Various Dixon
Clara Dobbin
Destiny Dore
Breanne Downing
Monika Drabik

Ashley Driver
Halina Duke
Hannah Duran
Zachary Dziki
Melinda Easton
Jeffery Eddins
Jakobe Edmond

Royal Eldridge
Ronald Epting
Matthew Ervin
Ceana Escalante
Anthony Fassoth
Aurora Fassoth
Aisha Faulkner

Isaiah Ferguson
Ashlee Fields
Kevin Fields
Desmond Fields Jr
Carolyn Fleming
Alexandria Flowers
DaiQuan Ford

ShaiVon Ford
Daria Forrest
Terrell Foster Jr
Jayden Frain
Alicia Frazier
Jade Frison
Ivori Fulton

Mikal Funches
Jei Avonni Gage
Alina Garcia
Jose Garcia Jr.
Delshaun Garner II
Jacqueline Garza
Mekhayla Gibson

Eugene Gibson Baker
Sheteka Gibson Baker
Adrian Gibson-Moreno
Jamila Gipson
Darrel Glass II
Covieyon Glover
Thomas Golden Jr.

Cynthia Gomez
Matthew Gonzalez
Tiffanie Goodman
Jay'Lon Gordon
Osan Gordon
Jada Gore
Isaac Graham

Princess Graham
Da'Vontay Gray
David Gresko
Austin Griffith
Nicole Groleau
Olivia Guevara
Victor Gutierrez

How much of a freshman are you?

1. On the first day of school you...
a. Hid in the bathroom shaking with terror
3%

b. Sat in your homeroom reading your schedule for the 50th time
72%

c. Talked it up in the main building
25%

2. In the hallways you...
a. Ran down the left side screaming for justice
3%

b. Fast walked with a purpose of making it on time
49%

c. Strolled into class with 15 seconds to spare
48%

3. During lunch you...
a. Ate in the bathroom stall and softly cried to yourself
7%

b. Quickly claimed a table
89%

c. Attempted to sneak into the main building cafeteria
4%

4. In class you...
a. Wrote down every word the teacher said because you never knew what would be tested
13%

b. Took notes occasionally and glanced at the clock periodically
71%

c. Slept
16%

5. For your locker you...
a. Claimed it was "broken" because you didn't know your combination
15%

b. Set it for easy access
45%

c. What locker?
40%

Freshmen set goals for high school

"Pass all my classes."
Jalah Cleveland

"Get straight A's."
Meyianna Sullivan

"To graduate with a 4.0 GPA."
La'Monteon Williams

"To graduate with a 3.0 GPA."
Moses Johnson Jr.

Adonis Hall
Ahmad Hall
Regine Hall
Jacob Hallock
Leslie Hardin
Tasha Hardin
JayLynn Hardrick

Sydney Harper
Joseph Harris
Toejah Harris
Joseph Harris II
Tianna Harrison
Nicholas Harsma
Larissa Hart

Kendall Heffner-Woodson
Diamond Henderson
Dontrell Henderson
Christopher Hendrix
Cezar Hernandez
Esteban Hernandez
Monica Hernandez

Yulissa Hernandez
Oscar Hernandez Jr
He'Shawn Hicks
Cherise' Higgins
Troy Hightower
Destiny Hill
Shaylon Hill

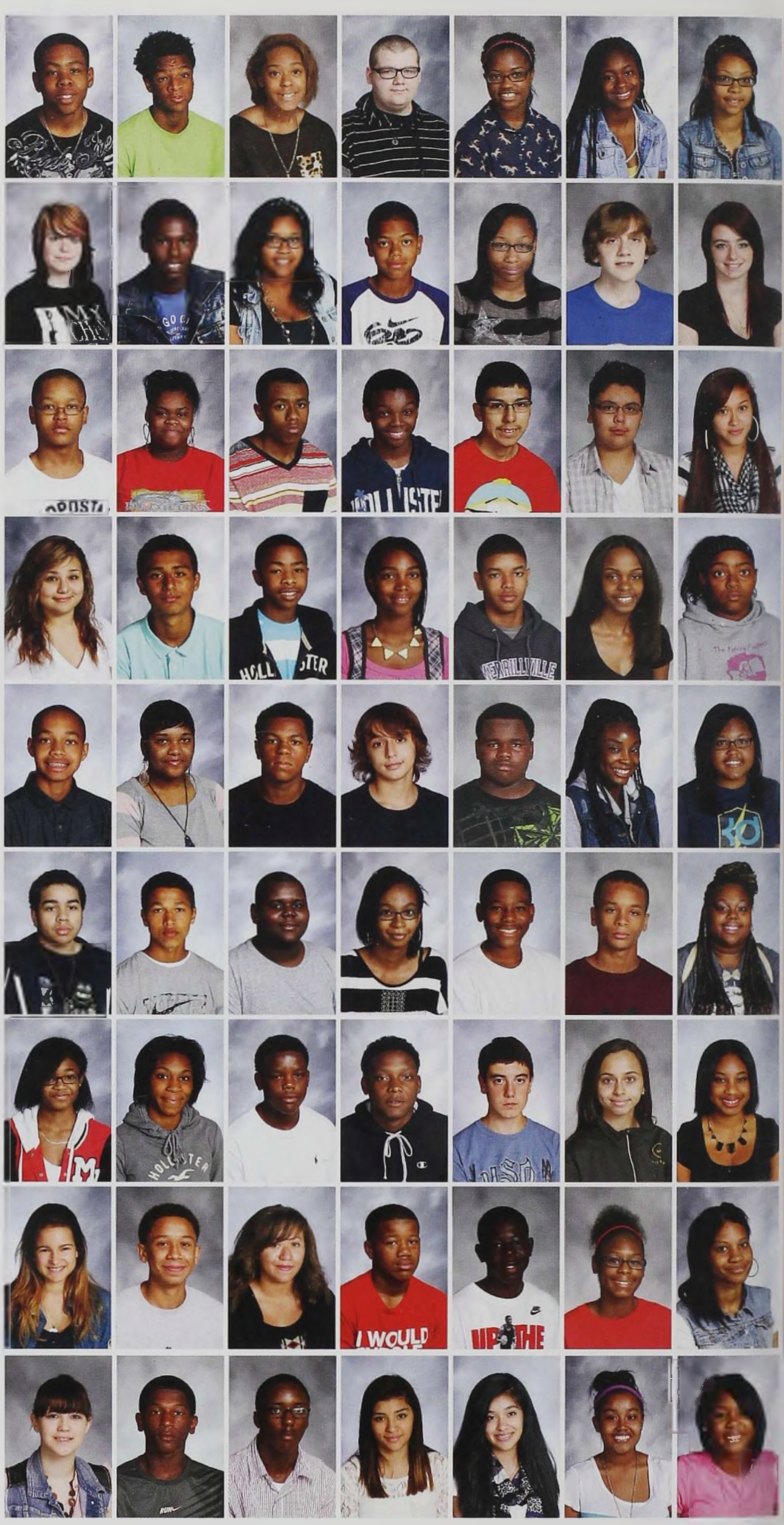
Henry Hill III
Cynthia Hindmon
Dewayne Holbrook
Dale Holley
London Holley
Ke'Ayzia Holliday
Makayla Hollingsworth

Michael Hollowell Jr
Romeo Hoover
Aaris Howard
Aunteria Howard
Christopher Howard
Jason Howell
Jazmine Huffmon

Ashlei Hunt
Olivia Hunt
Darius Hutch
Donuai Hutch
Casey Hyland
Mariahcruz Igartua
LaAshtiana Ivey

Marija Ivic
Jonah Jackson
Kalea Jackson
Kameron Jackson
Dewayne Jackson Jr.
Chelsea Jackson-Gary
Brianna Jackson-Jones

Brittany Jakubowicz
Brandon James
Justin Jerry
Leticia Jimenez
Maria Jimenez
Anya Johnson
JaeLenn Johnson



Michael Johnson
Shawntez Johnson
TasMarie Johnson
Tiyanna Johnson
Willow Johnson
Moses Johnson Jr
Kayla Johnson-Owens
Jayden Jolley

Adoria Jolly
Arkayla Jones
Avvione Jones
De'Jah Jones
Gelena Jones
Ivory Jones
Jerrahmia Jones
Kenneth Jones

Mary Jones
Tyler Jones
Montel Jones Jr
Kathryn Jurczyk
Samantha Kale
Ashley Katz
Sean Keith
Vantron Kelley Jr.

Yolanda Kelly
Darius Kendall
Precious Key
Jaaliyah Kidd
Jermaine Kimbrough
Jermell Kimbrough
Linda King
Nyjah King

Terra King
Kenneth Kirkham
James Kirklen Jr
Kyle Klingaman
Justin Knox
Andrew Kopca
Joseph Krutz
Richard Lacefield

Marshae Lane
Simone Lara
Joey Larkin
D'Vonne Larkins-Porter
Carnisa Laster
Fabienne Laurisch
Arman Leal
Andrew Leon

Javier Leon
Jesus Leon
Carissa Lewis
Najah Lewis-Singleton
Edward Liggins
Demond Ligon Jr
Jermaine Lipscomb
Akil Lloyd

Tevon Lockett
Kevin Lockett II
Alexis Lopez
Cassandra Lopez
Justin Lovings
Christian Luckett
Jorge Luna III
Paulina Lupercio

Ashlee Luttinen
Bailey Lynch
Jerome Lynch II
Alicia Maclin
Xavier Madera
Jazmyne Magee
Taylor Maj
Re'Nee Mallett

Matthew Mallon
Jaylynn Malone
Kennedy Marshall
Thomas Marshall IV
Mercedes Martin
Alan Martinez
Daniel Martinez
Mariana Martinez

Matthew Martinez
Jlah Massie
Ashley Matthews
Alexandria Matzaris
Megan Mays
Harold McBeth
Kyle McCallister
Andrew McChristian

Rachel McChristian
Jaylah McClarin
Johnnie McClinic
Mercedes McClurkin
Symone McCray
Markeya McDowell
Terrance McGee
Theodore McGhee

Bryce McGing
Kadarius McKinney
Elijah McLean
Mahqueese McMillan
Mileek McMillan
Briyauna McNeal
Carlos Mejia
Joshua Melendez

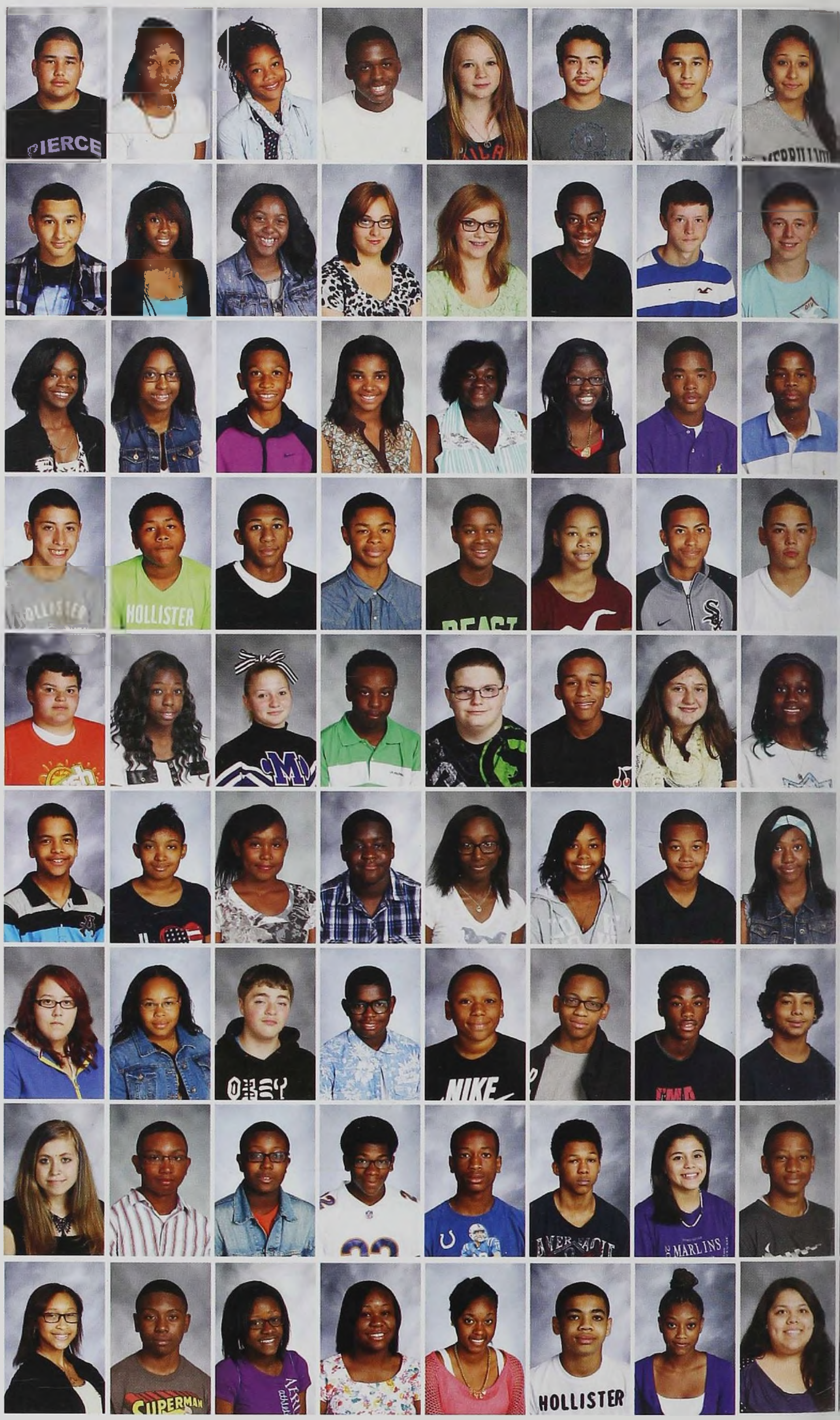
Israel Melendez III
Tashauna Mensah
Mallorie Michalak
Marcus Miller
Raymond Miller Jr.
Sharrod Mitchell
Alisha Mongold
Jaia Montgomery

Brian Moore
Diamond Moore
Dominque Moore
Maxwell Moore
Shannan Moore
Quiana Moorehead
Jailand Morgan
Zarria Moss

Anna Mryszuk
Sarah Muhammad
Jared Muiser
Justin Nabors
David Nash Jr.
Tyrik Neely
Dajon Newton
Deven Nguyen

Aleecia Niezgoda
Marcus Norton
Nehemiah Nunnery
Kaci O'Neal
John Ohiani-Jegede
Wale Omar
Heather Osorio
Shannon Pardue Jr.

Ah'Sia Parker
DeJavon Parker
Brittany Parks
Kailyn Patillo
Shantelle Patterson
Dennis Patterson Jr.
Infinity Patton
Natalie Paz



Isaiah Pearson
Makayla Pearson
Grettel Peralta
Brenden Perez
Carlos Perez
Faith Perry
Jakoby Perry

Diontae Phillips
Patrisha Phillips
Zakiyyah Pope
Michael Porterfield Jr
Nathan Potter
Elgin Prewitt
Somantha Proper

Jahnari Pruitt
Breonna Pulphus
Nicole Queer
Jazzybell Quinones
Zakariyya Ra'Sun
Cesar Ramirez
David Ramirez

Aryal Randall
Steven Rasmussen
Leah Ray
Iziah Readus
Rico Reed
Amiya Reina
Tyron Rias

Joshel Richards
Qwentin Richmond
Nickoleus Riley
Tatiana Riley
Julianne Roberts
Elisha Robins
Aliyah Robinson

Karina Robledo
Sean Roche
Willie Rodgers Jr.
Rachel Rodriguez
Stephen Rodriguez
Yesenia Rodriguez
Jessicca Rone

David Rosa
Madison Ross
Elijah Royal
Chrissey Ruffin
Christopher Ruffin Jr
Julian Russell
Maurice Russell Jr

Terry Sabbath
Amber Saenz
T'Wuan Sallee-Lindsay
Dakota Sampson
Anthony Sams Jr
Alexis Sanchez
Kayla Sandridge

Ulyessus Sansom
Steffan Santiago
Jordi Santoya
Zoe Schneider-White
Alexis Schulatz
Joel Schwartz
Jaylin Scott

Does the media give a realistic view of high school?

"Sometimes they do, but they don't portray high school situations."
Kaja Sims

"Yeah, it's giving an example of how it is going to be."
Michael Williams

"No, they overdue things in movies. and for TV shows school isn't the main priority."
Tasha Hardin

"Yes and no, because TV makes it seem like you can just do whatever and dress however you want, when in reality it's a lot stricter."
Brianna Brown

Ricky Sease
Ta`Shaiya Sevier
Brandon Shelton
Brook Shelton
Jalen Sherwood
Alexus Shirrells
Nitsa Shomo
Divine Short

Alexus Simpson
Kaja Sims
Daniel Skonieczny
Davon Smith
Justin Smith
Kailyn Smith
Katelyn Smith
Kendrick Smith

Kenyatta Smith
Mi-Chae` Smith
Rishara Smith
Scarlett Smith
Sydney Smith
Amari Smith McPhee
Ashleyrose Sparks
Breshaye Spear

Justin Spinks-Moxey
Caleb Stacker
Lauren Stanley
Hayley Steichen
Maxwell Stevens
A'Sonta Stewart
Destiny Stewart
Martell Stitt

Carl Stokes
Kylie Stokes
Michael Strain
Stephanie Stringer
Alfred Stubbs III
Meyianna Sullivan
Caila Surrett-Brown
Eufracia Taisipic

Aaliyah Tapia
Aisha Taylor
Derrick Taylor
Joy Taylor
Roman Taylor
Taj Taylor
Cordero Terrell
Kylen Terrell

Victoria Terry
Georgia Thayer
Kejuan Thomas
Marquis Thomas
Raege`ne Thomas
Renajah Thomas
Tyreak Thomas
Kiarra Thompson

LaVonte Thompson
Serena Thormann
Anthony Timmons Jr.
Isaac Tolliver
Angela Toomer
Milan Trajkovski
Brian Tucker
Daniel Tucker

Blake Turley
Justin Turner Jr.
Ciara Tyrone
Nijah Tyson
Kavitha Udumula
Hannah Umbarger
Taylor Upshaw
Anthony Valdez

Andrew Vander Woude
Allison Vanderbilt
Dominic Velez
Jennifer Villanueva
Emanuel Walker
Noah Walker
Kyrann Walker Jr

Dondre` Wall
Toreona Walls
Mitchell Ward Jr
Kafele Ward-Brown
James Warner IV
Jonae Washington
Tynetta Weatherspoon

Nikita Weaver
Christopher Webb
Nicole Webster
Kierra Wells
Nia Wells
Antonia` West
Bryana Wheeldon

Alyssia Whiteside
Areiana Whiteside
Kaley Wilander
Cameron Wilbon
Arryn Williams
Ayron Williams
Devyn Williams

Israel Williams
Jaylen Williams
Jillian Williams
Lamonteon Williams
Laquant Williams
Michael Williams Jr
Robert Williams Jr

Willie Williams III
Emmanuel Willis
Mya Wilson
Natalie Winburn
Jaron Woods
Tyler Woods
De`Jah Woodson

Nathan Woodworth
Benjamin Worthington
Alonzo Wright
Jasmine Wright
Brooklyn Yoder
Justin Young
Joshua Zuniga

Alfredo Zuniga Jr.

Bashful Faces

With arms latched on to her fellow cheerleaders, Freshman Autumn Carrero prepares to finish the stunt. "I like being on the team because I like to socialize with the girls and meet new people from other teams," Carrero said.

Lamanda Bledson
Donnovan Blue
Brandell Bradshaw
Winston Carey
Jalen Catron
Tyreise Coulter
Donovan Cranshaw-Suggs
Calvin Cruse
Rhyann Foster
Tamaryea Hamilton
Ramon Harris
O'Ijwan Henderson
Jaylin Holland
Iren Howard
Savanna Jabkowski
Robert Jackson
Justin Jordan
Zachary Keil
DawnJanai McCullough
Torri Moore
Marshay Neely
Nicholas Pruitt
Regenea Riley
Kaitlin Robson
Norell Smith
Diamond Walker
Wanyae` Walker
Christopher Widlocki
Joshua Williams
Isabella Wilson
Paige Woods

Rumors freshmen hear about high school

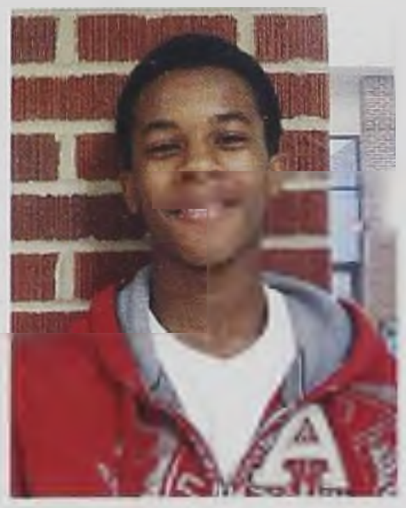
"People talk about the freshmen all the time. They call us 'fresh-meats'."
Breshaye Spear

"They are really strict about dress code."
Leslie Hardin

"If you don't pass your classes, then you have to retake them next trimester."
Jazmyne Magee

"It's just tragic with all the homework and the detentions."
Brianna Brown

Truth Be Told



"Truth be told I like to play golf."
Daniel Taylor

Truth be told I can sing."
Elijah Ray

"Truth be told I used to be natural."
ALexis Delk

"Truth be told I used to be a gymnast."
Alana Charles

"Truth be told I like lightning, but I hate thunder."
Viridiana Carrillo

"Truth be told I want to be a skater."
Maya Griffin

"Truth be told I want to be a dancer."
Sharice Jackson

"Truth be told I can draw."
Joshua Bradley

"Truth be told I like to go bowling."
Koreena Ramos

"Truth be told I want to live in Brazil"
Matthew Tobias

Sophomores focus on fundraising, involvement

With first year officers in charge, the Class of 2016 aims to involve more students in the class projects and to raise more money.

"Our goal is to raise money for our account because as we started out the beginning the year we had no money at all, but after our bake sale we raised over $100," President Ashton Anekwe said.

"The bake sale turned out to be really good, we made over $100," Secretary Hunter Kaiser said.

Class members participated in Homecoming.

"We were in the Homecoming parade and because the theme was ' All around the World' we did ' princesses around the world.' We had Mulan from China, Pocahontas from America, Jasmine from Arabia and Tiana from New Orleans" Treasurer Casey Harvey said.

McDonald's is willing to help the class achieve their goal by helping them raise money for the account.

"The McDonalds fundraiser is where we give you a flyer to McDonalds and you cash it in and then we receive a profit from your meal," Vice President Viridiana Carrillo said.

Vice President Viridiana Carrillo, President Ashton Anekwe, Secretary Hunter Kaiser and Treasurer Casey Harvey.

Briana Abbott
Maya Abdullah
Joseph Abeyta III
Andrew Acosta
Juan Adame
Darius Adams

Miracle Akins
Navia Alexander
Myles Alford
Mahmud Ali
Subhi Ali
Chanita Allen

Hannah Allen
Madison Allen
Jose Alvarez II
Alexis Anderson
Emmanual Anderson
Ashton Anekwe

Tyler Argullin
Avari Arthur
Alivia Ash
Daniel Aurel
Wesley Babilonia
Alyssa Bailey

Devon Bailey
Keith Baker Jr
Jourdin Bandy
Brian Baran
Philip Barnes Jr
Antonio Basemore

Annie Baymon
Mario Bedolla Jr
Adrianna Bell
Brenna Bell
Jason Bell Jr
Kelsey Bennett

Jamie Bhe
Belen Bickell
Laura Bier
Brendon Bistrican
Sierra Blackwell
Alphonso Blackwell III

Promise Blakely
Dominique Bland
Shania Blue
Tionna Bond
Donyel Borom
Jada Bowden

Victor-Jacolbi Boyd
Amari Bradley
India Bradley
Joshua Bradley
Austin Brakley-Lain
Daija Bravo

Crushing on a celebrity

"Chris Brown"
Keara Gill

"Miley Cyrus"
Aaron Wright

"A$ap Rocky"
Rebecca Knight

"Lauren London"
Keith Green

Melissa Brayfield
Lacy Bridgeman
Dyana Brinson
Adrian Brooks
Ariella Broom
Anthony Brown
Antoinese Brown

Jazmine Brown
Joshua Brown
Kiara Brown
Talisha Brown
De'Vontai Bryant
Triston Buenrostro
Jomaria Burns

Kaila Byers
Oscar Cabrera Jr
Brittney Cain
Jaivionne Calvert
Cindy Cameron
Anastasia Campos
Deanna Cannon

Michael Caraballo
Tranette Cargo
Dominique Carpenter
Donovan Carpenter
Viridiana Carrillo
Taniso Carter
Isontre` Causey

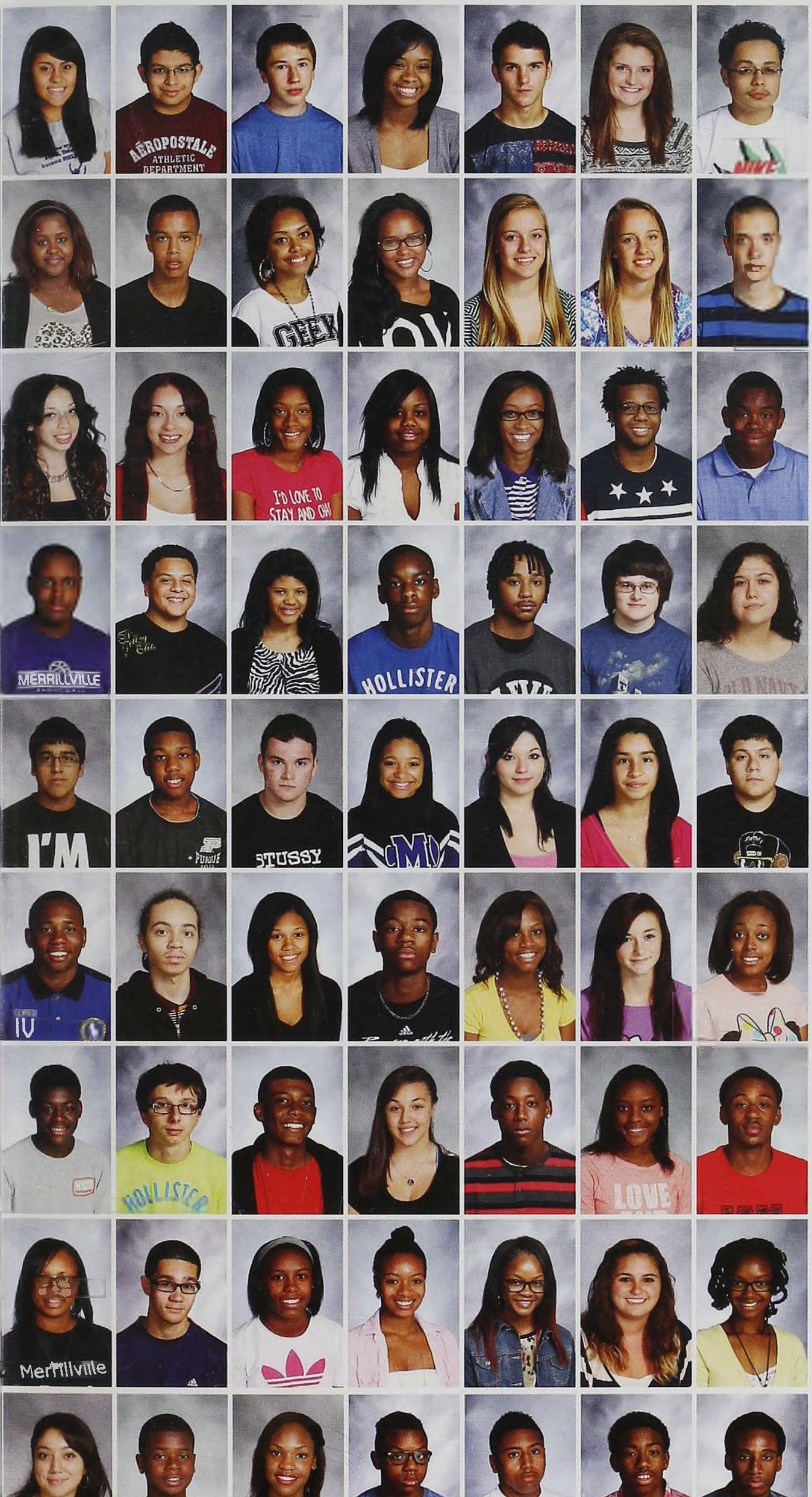
Destiny Chacon
Liane Chambers
Alana Charles
Courtney Chavez
Marcel Cherry
Leslie Christie
Cameron Clark

Gabriel Clark
James Clark III
Keiyara Clayton
Jessica Cole
Arianne Conn
Anthony Cook
Deontai Cooper

Antonio Cornelius Jr.
Jacob Covaciu
Kaylon Craft
Julie Craig
Casey Crane
Mirkeisha Crawford
Corey Crawford Jr

Noah Criswell
Jordan Crook
Symantha Croy
James Danaher Jr.
Caitlin Darrell
Cheryl Daugherty
LeArnetta Davies

Aerielle Davis
Anna Davis
John-Tearique Davis
Linus Davis
Talia Davis
Allanisette Dawson
Joda Day



Mariana de Moraes Emili
Oscar DeLa Cruz
Chad Deline
Alexis Delk
Dean Denisiuk II
Danielle Dewees
David Diaz

Fatouma Dika
Samuel Dinka
Alexandra Dinkins
Deanetra Dixon
Erica Dixon
Samantha Dixon
Nicholas Doneski

Amber Drake
Selena Drake
Adrianna Driver
Destina'e Dubois
Jada Duff
Kameron Duke
Dorian Duncan

Cameron Dunlap
Raymond Duque Jr.
Arielle Dye
Vernice Eastland
Jeremy Ellis
Zachary Feign
Andrea Fernandez

Alfonso Figueroa
Jalen Forrest
David Froglia
Haley Funches
Sarita Gaona
Brenda Garcia
Luis Garcia

David Gatson IV
Anthony Gembara
Kiaeysha Gibson
Anthony Gilbert
Keara Gill
Emily Glover
Matice Glover

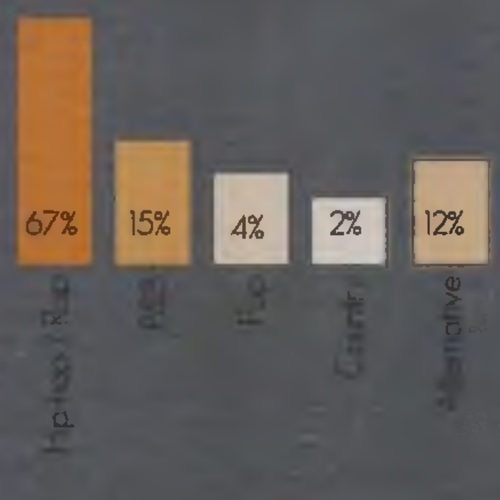
Justen Gordon
Kevin Gouwens
Justin Grady
Destiny Green
Keith Green
Riayn Greene
Aarion Greenwood

Marlesse Greer
Tyler Greer
Christian Gridiron
Maya Griffin
Tajanee` Griffin
Kayla Griffith
Kavet Grooms

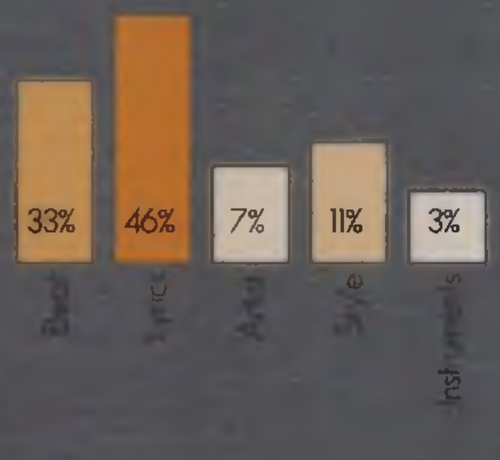
Jacqueline Gutierrez
Damien Hagan
Aaliyah Hall
Ryan Hall
Christian Hamilton
Don Hamilton Jr.
Trevon Hampton

Feeling the music

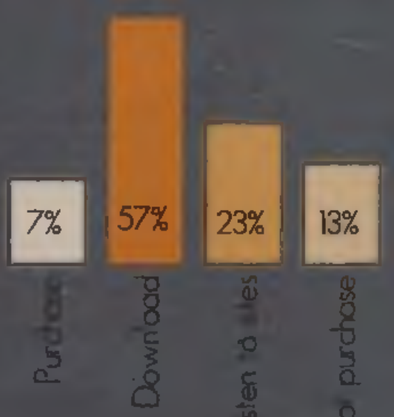
What is your favorite genre of music?



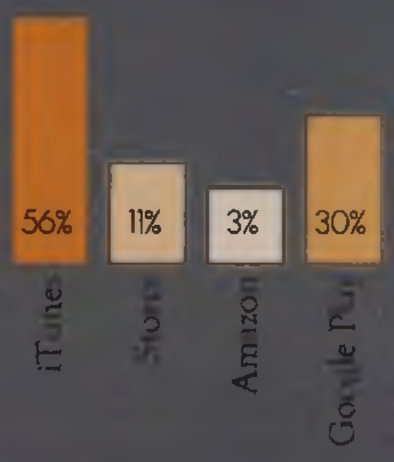
Why do you like this kind of music?



What do you prefer:



If you purchase, where do you purchase your music?



Students struggle with locker locations

"It's hard to get to my classes on time so I get my books before school and during lunch."
Dorian Duncan

"I don't go to my locker. I just carry all my books and I hate it."
Briana Palm

"It gets me mad and aggravates me because all my classes are far apart and it makes me late."
Lauren Lopez

"It's a real problem trying to get to my classes on time and bringing my book to each class."
Michael Shannon II

Thomas Hansbury III
Anthony Hardin
Devon Harmon
Aaron Harper
Deja Harris
Eriq Harris
Nakiyah Harris

Tyreke Harris
Robert Harris Jr.
Casey Harvey
Kelsey Harvey
Alanna Heath
De Henderson
Michael Henderson Jr.

Samia Henley
Alexis Henney
Isaiah Hernandez
Ysenia Hernandez
Brittany Hicks
Armon Hill
Maya Hill

Joshua Hiller
David Hinton II
Ya'Nique Holden
Marissa Hollins
Sharod Holmes Jr.
Tiffany Holst
Wendell Hopson Jr.

Da'Montay Host
Chloe Howard
Rheed Howerton
Anternee Hudson
Brandy Hughes
Dashonee' Hunter
Donald Hunter

Tammiah Ingram
Timisha Ivie
Ashiala Jackson
Jo Anna Jackson
Latifah Jackson
Charles Jacobs II
Eryn Jenkins

Maurice Jenkins
Patrice Jenkins
Mariah Jimenez
Derreke Johnson
Jada Johnson
Jordan Johnson
Khaylan Johnson

Le'Montrell Johnson
Marchaun Johnson Jr.
Carlton Jones
Jailyn Jones
Jaylen Jones
Jayson Jones
Kahlaya Jones

Thomas Jones
Rico Joseph
Monica Juarez
Hunter Kaiser
Warren Kimbrough III
Amber King
Odestine King

Troy Kirkley
LaTavia Knight
Rebecca Knight
Veronica Koontz
Hope Krajnak
Alexis Krutz
Tyeisha Lackey

David Lagunas
Jayla LaPlace
Darren Latiker
Vincent Latimore Jr
Anthony Lee
Tra'Mont Lee
Daniel Levenson

Timeisha Liggins
D'Nay Lightning
Justin Lindsey
Jonathan Lipp
Brandon Long Jr
Jasmine Lopez
Lauren Lopez

Oralia Lopez
Crystal Lopez de Lara
Aaron Lott
Alysa Lucero
Yvonne Luna
Sho'N Mabone
Chamar Maclin

Veronica Magallanes
Michael Mahone
John Mai
Jalin Major
Jillian Manis
Christian Marquez
Luis Marquez

Nathan Martin-Ellison
Christian Martinez
Isaiah Martinez
Jazlyn Martinez
Marrisa McClelland
Erika McClinton
Jordan McDonald

Kristin McGee
Malik McMullan
Ashley Mendez
Tirsa Mercado
Matthew Meux
Michael Mezydlo
Antonia Miller

Kapreacia Mims
Dondre Minnion
Raemere Mitchell
Bree Montgomery
Jara Montgomery
Jayna Moore
Keaireana Moorehead

Deja Morris
Ricardo Morris
Jon Morton
Angel Munchenburg
Daryl Murray Jr.
Adam Neal
Isaac Neely

Sophomore juggles school, football, wrestling

Sophomore Shawn Streck is a two-sport student-athlete who maintains good grades. Streck said he enjoys both sports.

"It's a tough transition from football to wrestling," he said. "They're two totally different sports, but wrestling prepares me more for football."

As a freshman, Streck was given the leadership award in wrestling. He said he felt that he needed to step up and be a team leader. Streck said he keeps his studies his priority.

"Shawn is an amazing student," Social Studies teacher Mr. Michael Knacke said. "He is always prepared, he has a terrific attitude, and he is always respectful. I can tell he is going to go far and do great in life."

Streck has been playing football since kindergarten. He said he plans to play football in college and hopes to attend Northwestern, Notre Dame or Michigan State.

Before the game, Sophomore Shawn Streck shakes hands with Senior Craig Burns (6). Streck has been playing football since he was in kindergarten. "My favorite part of this season was being the DAC champions and also getting nominated for the All-State Team," he said. Streck said he loves being able to play with his friends in a sport that he loves.

Similar face, different personality

Erica Dixon and Samantha Dixon

Is it easier or harder being a twin than normal siblings?
Erica Dixon: It's harder. It's basically like having another parent sometimes because she is always there.
Samantha Dixon: It is easier because we can share homework and notes, but sometimes it sucks to be in the same grade and have the same friends. Not to mention, I get called Erica alot.

Jeremiah Perez and Nazarah Perez

What's the most irritating question you get asked about being a twin?
Both: Are you guys really twins?

How are you different?
Jeramiah Perez: She is a girl.

Is it easier or harder being a twin?
Both: Harder

Sean Noonan
Ashley Ojo
Alyssa Ortiz
Jorge Osoria Jr
Deidra Owens
Devonte Owens
Nicholas Owens

Yajaira Ozuna
Antonio Paine Jr.
Briana Palm
Kody Parkham
Luis Paz
Brianna Pearson
Paris Pearson

Michael Pearson Jr.
Brandon Pelaquin
Gerardo Perez
Jeremiah Perez
Nataliy Perez
Nazarah Perez
DeVion Perry

Andre` Peterson Jr.
Breanna Phillips
Frida Pineda
Corey Platts Jr.
Daniel Pole III
Armonni Pollard
Deanne Porter

Mariya Pratt
Mario Preciado
Jaliyah Price
Sarah Price
Chelsey Primm
Thomas Prince
Tiara Pruitt

Imani Purnell
Claribell Quinones
Brianna Raketic
Sara Ramirez
Ernesto Ramirez Jr.
Omar Ramirez Jr.
Koreena Ramos

Marrisa Ramos
Aryana Randall
Brianna Rangel
Elijah Ray
Olivia Reavley
Rayana Reed
Jacob Reinhart

Amarillis Rentas
Mireya Rey
Layke Reynolds
DeLaney Richards
Kayvin Richards
A'Ona Richardson
Ciara Richardson

Nicholas Ristic
Theodore Roberts
Tynithia Robinson
Daniel Robles
Bethany Rochefort
Adrian Rodriguez
Jessica Rodriguez

Tomas Rodriguez Jr.
Alphonso Rogers III
Brandon Root
Aubren Rosas
Najmi Ruffin
Brittney Rzepczynski
Gia Sadural

Tyhlar Sain
Jessica Salazar
Emilio Salinas
Alyssa Sanchez
Sabrina Sanchez
Corey Sanders
Creg Sanders

Jasmine Sanders
Cornelius Sanders Jr.
Mannsimran Sandhu
Hannah Sawyer
DeAyne Scaife
Castlie Scott
Cole Scott

Deja Scott
Jaketa Scott
Miaya Scott
Degerie Scott Jr.
Jonathan Serrato
Adam Serros
Delnershea' Sevier

Kylah Shackelford
Michael Shannon II
Mechai Sharks
Derel Shell
Corvon Shelton
Dakota Shelton
Sydney Sheppard

Kevin Simmons Jr.
Armen Sims
Deja Sims
Kayla Sims
Matthew Sims
Kendra Skinner
Akeem Smith

Breon Smith
Davon J Smith
Elijah Smith
Henry Smith
Ireon Smith
Joella Smith
Joshai Smith

Kenneth Smith
Nicole Smith
Regina Smith
Shavonte' Smith
Garrett Smith Jr
Thomas Smith Jr
Rebekah Soto

Dakota South
Khaila Southall
Taylor Span
Tylia Spikes
Jairus Stevens
Gabrielle Stewart
CeCe Stokes

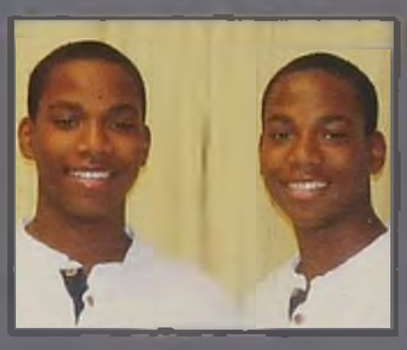
Common beliefs about twins seldom true

James Sutherland III and Jonathan Sutherland

Are notions about twins true? Do you feel each other's pain?
Jonathan Sutherland: No it's not real.

Are there any drawbacks or perks of being a twin?
James Sutherland: It is normal, and no, I wouldn't change anything

What is the most irritating question?
Jonathan: Do you feel pain at the same time?



Nicholas Tanzymore and Tyler Tanzymore

Have you ever tried switching?
Both: No, but we always think about doing it

How are you different?
Tyler Tanzymore: I'm smarter, shorter, skinnier younger and better looking.
Nicholas Tanzymore: I'm a minute older, I'm taller and I'm better looking.

Are the common beliefs about twins true?
Both: Sometimes. For example, we could be thinking the same thing at the same time and then say it.

Hidden talents no longer secret

"I play the cello and dance."
Leia Malcom

"I like to sing."
Jailyn Jones

"I write poetry and short stories."
Anna Davis

"I write and produce music. I also love to sing"
Rashawn Mills

Shawn Streck
Regan Strong
Riley Strong
Sydnee Stubbs
Janka Sullivan
Jonathan Sutherland
James Sutherland III

Eric Swims
Nicholas Tanzymore
Tyler Tanzymore
Dalin Tape
Daniel Taylor
Isaiah Taylor
Myles Taylor

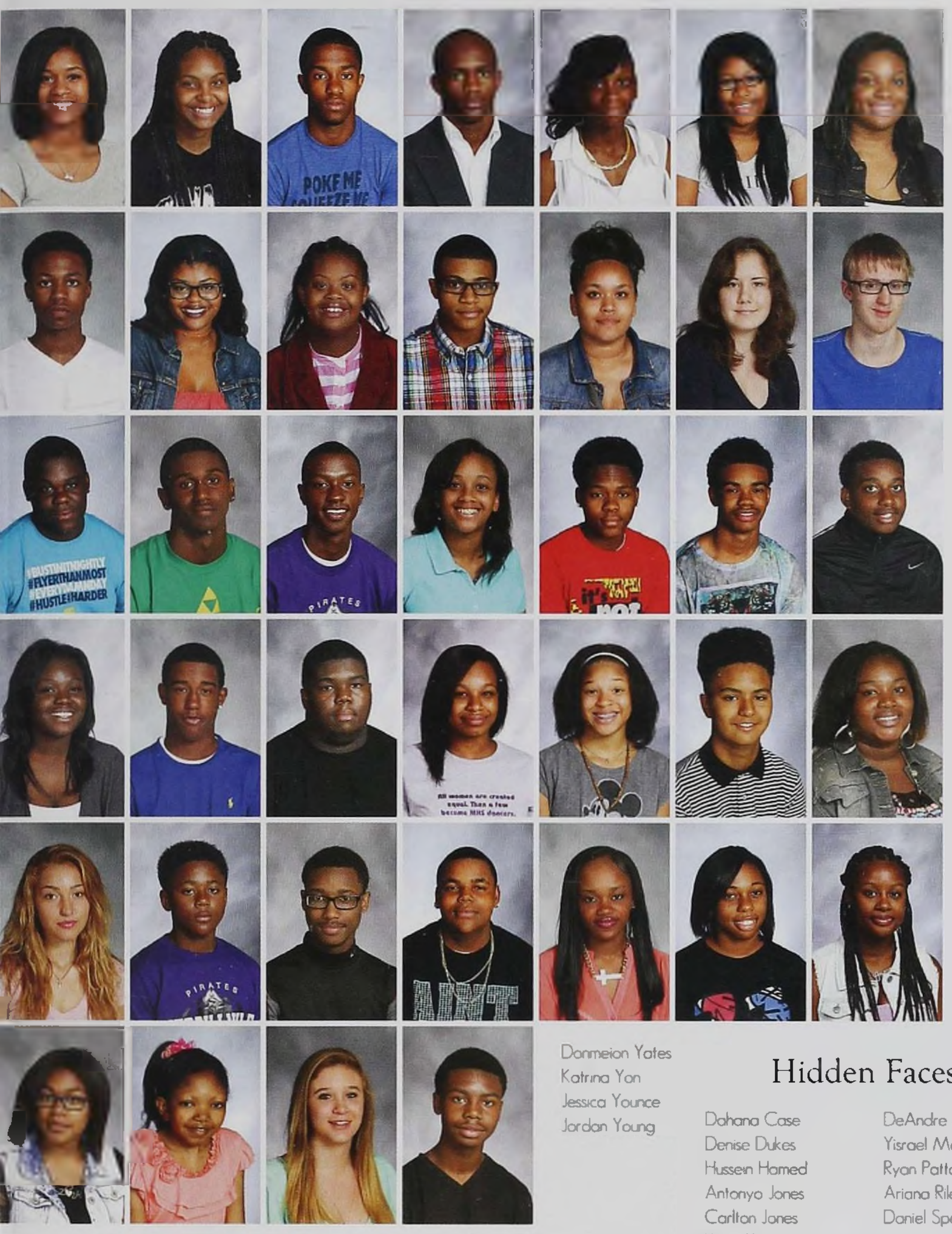
Ryan Taylor
Darnell Taylor Jr
Angela Terry
Raymond Therolus Jr
Brianna Thomas
Christian Thomas
Aiesha Thompson

Michael Thompson
Isaiah Thornton
Michael Thornton
Tanner Thurson
Angelic Tillman
Matthew Tobias
Anthony Tolbert

Isaiah Toodle
Edwin Torres
Anthony Tucker Jr.
Rontrell Turner
Sonni Tyson II
Alexandria Umbarger
Derrick Underwood

John Unmisig
Edgar Valdez
Kiendra Valentine
Nicole Van Nortwick
Terhannia Vaughn
Arturo Velasco
Diamond Walker

The green flag blows in the wind as Sophomore Melissa Brayfield plays a citizen in a zombie apocalypse. "I thought the zombie idea was cool and really different," Brayfield said. In her first year on the Color Guard team, she said she was able to design her apocalyptic outfit for performances and step into the shoes of her character. "The routines were fun and were not too difficult. They were all interesting and very creative."



Mary Ann Wallace
Allyssa Walls
David Walls
Arion Walton
Ashley Walton
Raven Warren
Ashley Washington

Brian Watson
Micaela Watson
Nanese Weatherspoon
Kevin Weems
Kim Wendt
Sarah West
Parker Wheeldon

Corrin Wheeler
JoRale Wheeler
Demond Wilkins Jr.
Ahveyon Williams
Brandon Williams
Drelen Williams
Jalen Williams

Janae Williams
Romell Williams
Geremy Williams-Brown
Katherine Williamson
Xakilah Williamson
Tyreek Wilson
Lakiima Wingard

Jayana Wolak
Aaron Woodson
Derrick Wright
Aaron Wright Jr
Monique Yarbro
Detra Yarbrough
Marchala' Yarbrough

Donmeion Yates
Katrina Yon
Jessica Younce
Jordan Young

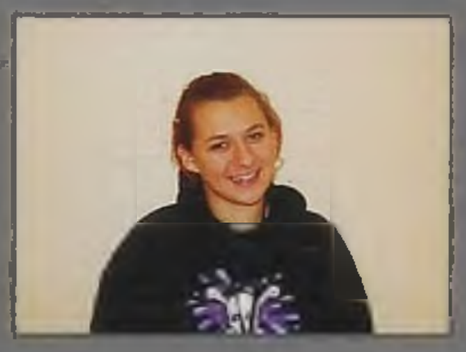
Hidden Faces

Dahana Case
Denise Dukes
Hussein Hamed
Antonyo Jones
Carlton Jones
Kiara Key
DeAndre Matthews
Yisrael McMurray
Ryan Patton
Ariana Riley
Daniel Spearman

While in the kick line with Junior Jacqueline Pollard, Sophomore Armen Sims prepares to finish the pre-game. routine "My motivation during games is the feeling after the routines," Sims said Sims has been on the Dance Team since her freshman year. "I love to dance and getting to dance on the field during halftime," Sims added.

What does sweet 16 mean to you?

"Drive and have more freedom."
Hunter Kaiser



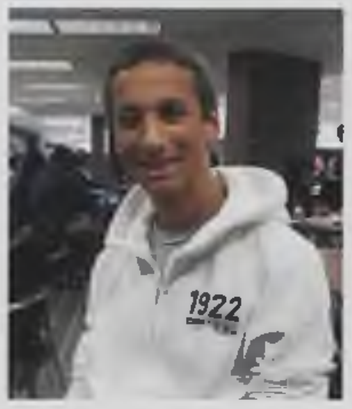
"I get to have a big party."
Brianna Pearson

"I get whatever I want and be spoiled."
Marlana De Moraes Emiliano

"I can get a tattoo and piercings."
Alivia Ash

Truths & a Lie

Tommye Nelson
A. I play softball
B. I love white chocolate
C. My favorite song is "1000 miles" by Vanessa Carlton.



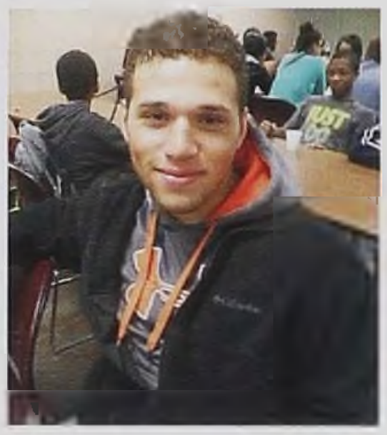
Bradley Salka
A. I'm color-blind.
B. Country music is my favorite.
C. I run cross country.

Cynthia Basu-Chavez
A. I was born with curly hair.
B. Tennis is my life.
C. I hate country music

Derek Scott
A. I'm a ginger.
B. I'm a sneakerhead.
C. I wrestle.

Alexandra Houart
A. I'm from Florida.
B. My favorite food is pizza.
C. My birth stone is pearl.

Kianna Reed
A. I want to be a race car driver.
B. I love the color pink.
C. I have two brothers



Eein Harmon
A. I love boots.
B. I have long luscious locks.
C. I'm 5'10".

William Ballard
A. I like Dr. Pepper
B. I play baseball.
C. I hate Nike

Cynequa Cross
A. I have one brother.
B. My favorite color is blue.
C. I play the violin.

Angelica Navarro
A. I drink Arizone tea every day.
B. I love Jesus.
C. I broke my arm in the 4th grade.

Clarence Johnson III
A. I wrestle.
B. I have absolutely no style.
C. I wear exclusive shoes.

Lies: Nelson: B Salka: A, Basu-Chavez: C Scott: B Houart: C Reed: A Harmon: B, Ballard: C Cross: B Navarro: C Johnson: B

Class officers are Huldah Ohiani-Jegede, Chairman; Khandi King, Chairman, Eierra Wright, Secretary; (back) Michele Johnson, Chairman; David Lewis, President; Moniel Sanders, Vice President.

Officers work to make dream of 2015 a reality

Officers and members of the class of 2015 have a dream.

They want to be remembered.

President David Lewis, Vice President Moniel Sanders, Treasurer Kayla Grant and Secretary Ci'erra Wright work to make the meetings run smoothly and make sure the class has a great year.

"Besides our goal to raise money for our senior gift, I really just want the Class of 2015 to be remembered at MHS," Sanders said.

The four officers all work hard to achieve their goals.

"All of them are very diligent when it comes to team meetings and are willing to meet all the time," Sponsor Patti Tubbs said. "They all work very well together, they're a team, and I enjoy working with them."

Although the president and vice president have very important jobs, they say they could not get all they would like done without the help from the secretary and treasurer as well as the chairmen.

"I decided to run because the old treasurer is now homeschooled, and I keep track of the money and plan the fundraisers," Grant said.

"I enjoy being secretary because it's fun. I like being connected with my peers and helping out too. I really like being an officer because I'm so involved with my class," Wright said.

Almanoemi Acosta
Emmanuel Agbana
Israel Akinbobuyi
Kayla Akujobi
Kierra Alexander
Maryam Ali

Murad Ali
Ayana Allen
Diamond Allen
Dustin Allen
Jayson Allen
Ashley Ammons

Brittany Anaya
Justin Anderson
Julian Andrews
Johnathon Arce
Chabria Armstead
Payton Ash

Da`Ja`Nay Askew
James Austin
Jamerra Bailey
Kya Bailey
Jaquaun Bailey-Taylor
Jordan Baldwin

Dorian Balensiefen
William Ballard
Lauren Banks
Damen Banks Jr.
Reynaldo Barajas
Alyssa Barrett

Alexis Barron
Asia Barron
Linda Basemore
Anthony Bass
Cynthia Basu-Chavez
Alayshia Bates-Smith

Stone Battles
Janel Baylor
Ebony Beasley
Julian Bell
Ashley Benkert
Mark Benyoun Jr.

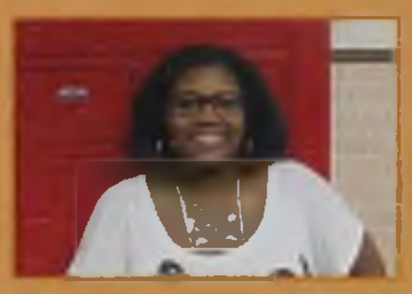
Deontre Bethel
Terica Bethel
Javaughn Blakely Jr
Alex Blanco
James Blevins Jr
Faith Bonner

McKinley Boone
Jannel Boyd
Cameron Bracey
Bradley Brack
Sarah Bradash
Victoria Bradley

Who's your favorite teacher?

"I like Mrs. Pierce. She is a great teacher and is always willing to take time out to help me with my math class. I really loved being in her class and she is a very funny teacher."
Reesie Woods III

"I like Mr. Moslander. He is nice and funny. He is interesting and shows the best movies. He also gives out snacks and is laid-back."
Mam Samba



"I like Mr. Hofer and Mr. Yager because they take care of us, and they are nice and funny"
Kerri Rouser

I liked Mr. Hussey because even if I don't have his class anymore, he takes time out to help me with my other math classes."
Ayana Allen

Ralaunda Bradshaw
Ryan Brady
Kora Bramson
Taylor Brandon
Mitchell Brayfield
Ariahna Bridges
James Britton III

Alyssia Broaders
Kayla Brock
Isaiah Broden
Zachary Bromberg
Cameron Brooks
AnthonySha Brown
Aria'N Brown

Cedrick Brown
Dominique Brown
Jamie Brown
Seriah Brown
Trenton Brown
Alonzo Brown III
Alexander Brumfield

Daiyon Bryant
Daylen Bryant
Tiearra Buckingham
Micah Burgstahler
DeShawn Burl
De'Juante Burnett
Justin Burton

Kalynn Butler
Thomas Butler Jr.
Crystal Cabrera
Rick Calhoun
Starr Callicott
Imani Campbell
Lily Campbell

Alice Canchola
Mariana Cantu
Anyssa Carbajal
Brandon Carpenter
Andres Carrillo
Sabrina Carroll
Destiny Carter

Na'Jvia Caruthers
James Caruthers II
Angelina Castillo
Michael Castillo Jr.
Marcus Castro
Trent Chambers
Kayleigh Champion

Jakqwuan Chandler
Brianna Charles
Destiny Chavers
Mario Cisneros
Meagan Clarkson
Kelci Coker
Brianna Cole

Myracle Coleman
Dezonn Coley
Justus Collins
Marissa Collins
Juan Contreras
Tierney Cook
Shamar Cooper

Tevon Cooper
Vincent Corralez
Kaitlyn Covaciu
Nathaniel Cox
Vejer Cox
Elijah Coy
Angelica Crawford
Cynequa Cross

DeMaris Crump
Marguerite Culbreath
Brittany Cupid
Kitali Curry
La Neicea Dates
Anthony Davis
Davion Davis
Dijonte Davis

Malik Davis
Amber Dawning
Danielle DeLeon
Matthews Deloch IV
Claret Diaz
Ra'Vyn Dickinson
Jordan Dillon
Destiny Dixon

Joleesa Doss
Todd Douglas Jr.
Jordan Downs
Bryson Draper
Robert Drayton Jr.
Alexis Driver
Yiqi Duan
Jenna Ducret

Jamal Duke
Jonathan Duke
Jamia Dunn
Matthew Dunn
Megan Dziewicki
Daniel Eldridge
Tyneah Ellis
A'Mauri Erving

Christian Espino
Jeremy Falaschetti
Brandon Fassoth
Anna Feliciano
Ashley Felton
Garrett Ferrell
Jessica Ferrell
De'Ja Fields

Caitlin Fisher
Dwayne Fitzpatrick Jr.
Brendan Fitzsimmons
Nathan Fles
Marisol Flores
Maria Flores-Ministro
Gregory Fontanez
Khalece Ford

Serina Ford
Andrew Foster III
Derrick Frazier
Victoria Frey
Jennifer Gaines
Victoria Gaines
Rachel Galante
Aaron Gamble

Kiarah Gamble
Alonzo Garcia
Karina Garcia
Torrey Garcia
Brianna Garity
Billy Geminder
Ashlin Gibson
Reese Gibson

Charity Gilkey
Eriss Gilliam
Aliyah Glover
Felipe Godinez
Austin Goldsmith
Kayla Grant
Ayana Gray
Terrance Grayson
Anthony Green Jr.
Chantell Greer
Sandra Gresham
Justin Griffin
Xeria Griffin
Daron Griffin Jr.
Alexander Griffith
Emily Gronli
Luis Gutierrez
Mitzy Gutierrez
Ray-Quan Hampton
Anika Hardaway
Tichina Hare
Denzel Harmon
Eein Harmon
Mikayla Harmon
Darryl Harris
Diamonique Harris
Ebony Harris
Kyara Harris
Morgan Harris
Sabrina Harris
Tilaya Harris
Montrell Harris Jackson
Alexis Harris-Medina
Xandria Harrison
Amy Harsma
Ayodeji Hassan
Sidney Hawkins
Raveen Heath
Ricky Heath Jr.
Cantrell Henderson
Carolina Henderson
Vondell Henry Jr
Adriana Hernandez
Araceli Hernandez
Jeremy Herrod
Kyle Heseltine
Monica Hicks
Shantelle Hicks
Matthew Hill
Christina Hobbs
Dewrell Hobson III
Daniel Holden
Alysha Holley
Tepsch Holley
Jessica Holmes
Alexus Horton
Jayonna Horton
Alexandra Houart
Candace Howard
Deon Hughes
Brandon Hurson
Sean Hyche Jr.
Bryceton Irvin
Jamal Ivey
Joseph Jackson
Robert Jackson
Terry Jackson
Eric Jackson Jr.
Shauntielle James
Tajio James
Rickah Jamison
Ivan Jara

Sierra Jeffries
Sharonia Jelks
Julian Jenkins
Roberto Jeronimo
Danta Jerris Feemster
Arriana Jimenez
Anietra Johnson

Arrianna Johnson
Ashantae Johnson
Daijon Johnson
Justin Johnson
Michele Johnson
Tyler Johnson
Michael Johnson II

Clarence Johnson III
Dorian Jones
Jamiah Jones
Jeremiah Jones
Sacha Jones
Tyreece Jones
Juan Juarez

Jennifer Jurcak
Jenna Jurczyk
Jagjot Kaur
Samantha Keith
Evin Kennedy
Jordan Kenner
Jamie Kimbrough

Drew King
Jason King
Khandi King
Rebecca Koeppl
Destiny Konieczny
Cassidy Koontz
Ethan LaBelle

Latricia Lacey
Julius Ledesma
Samantha Lee
Natavia Lenoir
Ashley Leon
Fernando Leon Jr
Morgan Lesich

David Lewis
Jamese Lewis
Jayla Lewis
Katherine Light
Ernest Lingo Jr.
Meranda Lipson
Jeffrey Long

Donald Long Jr
Orlando Lopez
Yesenia Lopez
Ernesto Lopez Jr.
Keristen Lucero
Shalana Lyles
Toriana Mabon

Shana Mabone
Ariyus Magee
Anthony Mai
Armando Maldonado
Ruben Maldonado
Stephanie Maldonado
Candace Martin

What's to like about an after school job?

Cameron Brooks
works at Cinnabon
but doesn't like the customers' attitudes and the paycheck isn't big enough

Rachel Galante
works at McDonalds
and likes earning money and meeting new people.

Cassandra Vargas
works at TCBY
and likes being able to eat the cookies and frozen yogurt on the job.

Kenneth Moore
works at Shoe Carnival
but doesn't like when people don't put stuff back.

Things that get under the skin

"When people lie over things I already know about."
Reese Gibson

"When people spell my name wrong."
Allyssa Mihal

"Talking to strangers."
Tyneah Ellis

"When people don't work as hard as I know they can."
Andres Carrillo

Devin Martin
Alona Martinez
Josue` Martinez-Santa
Patricia Matheny
Jason Mathews
Krystle Mathis
David Matthews Jr.

M'Kaylah Maxwell
Colton Maynard
Alexis McCaine
Brandon McCallister
Brittany McDowell
Dwan McDowell
Jwan McDowell

Ashua McGee
Whitney McGill
Jordan McHenry
Talaria McKinley
Carissa McKinney
Ashli McNair
Caddon McWilliams

Sergio Mendoza
Andrew Merced
Oji Meux
Allyssa Mihal
Audie Milla
Faith Miller
Temia Minfield

Ivan Minor
DeAndrea Mitchell
Brandon Mizanin
Kwame` Moffett-Knight
Alesha Moody
Dakyla Moore
Kenneth Moore

Nigel Moore
Robert Moore Jr
Aaron Morigi
Kenneth Morris
Fard Muhammad
Romeo Munoz
Andy Murga

Bianca Murphy
Isis Nash
Angelica Navarro
Shante Neely
Steven Negrelli
Ryan Neligan
Chloe Nelson

Tommye Nelson
Lucas Nero
Christopher Newman
Alexis Noble
Andres Nunez
Kennedy Nunn
Kyle Nymeyer

Huldah Ohiani-Jegede
Chloe Okemura
Angelica Oropeza
Juan Padilla
Charesse Parker
Hetkumar Patel
Justin Patton

Isaiah Pearson II
Larryssa Peoples
Fernando Perez
Jairus-Michael Perry
Bryauna Peterman
Asianna Peterson
Nicole Peterson
Ty'Ron Peterson

Tevin Phillips
DaeJa Pinkins
Jacqueline Pollard
Sierra Porter
Malik Presley
Marissa Presley
Destini Pugh
Brandon Quanstrom

Zakary Quarrell
Jacob Quinones
Gildardo Quintero Jr.
James Raddatz
Alexia Rainey
Diego Ramirez
Crystal Recio
Christian Reddick

Kianna Reed
Zachary Reed
Samantha Reeves
Juan Reyes
Kendall Rhodes
Alexandra Rich
Kamau Richardson
Noah Richardson

Camari Riley
Karl Riley Jr.
Amanda Rivera
Johnnie Rivera Jr.
Maryam Roberts
Day'Shoun Robinson
Jonathan Robinson
Marcus Robinson

Michael Robinson
Raina Robinson
Rhonda Robinson
Surrae Robinson
Kirk Roby II
Briante Rodgers
Christopher Rodriguez
David Rodriguez

Edgar Rodriguez
Joel Rosas
Kerri Rouser
Robert Ruiz
Naphtalia Ruth
Brandy Rzepczynski
Christopher Saez
Brian Sales

Bradley Salka
Mam Samba
Shana Sams
Arnold Sanchez
Humberto Sanchez
Joseph Sanchez
Khaila Sanchez
Moniel Sanders

Raquel Sansone
Victoria Sansone
Andres Santiago
Briana Santiago
Caitlyn Scegiel
David Schroer
Alyssa Schulatz
Daejah Scott

Derek Scott
Pierre Scott
Temira Scott
Jesse Serrano
Angelina Serrato
Samuel Shadrick III
Jada Shannon
Austin Shea

Montriel Shell
Victoria Shelton
Ta'Lar Shepard
Cory Shirk
Banita Shoulder
Phillip Simmons
India Simpson
Kendall Skinner

Morgan Skonieczny
Aaliyah Smith
Alize Smith
Brianna Smith
Brittany Smith
Quintavion Smith
Vall'Ee Smith
Keanu Soto

Michael Sparks Jr.
Jordan Stanley
Sean Staples
TiShawn Steele
Taylor Steffey
Tyler Steffey
Kali Stevens
Taylor Steverson

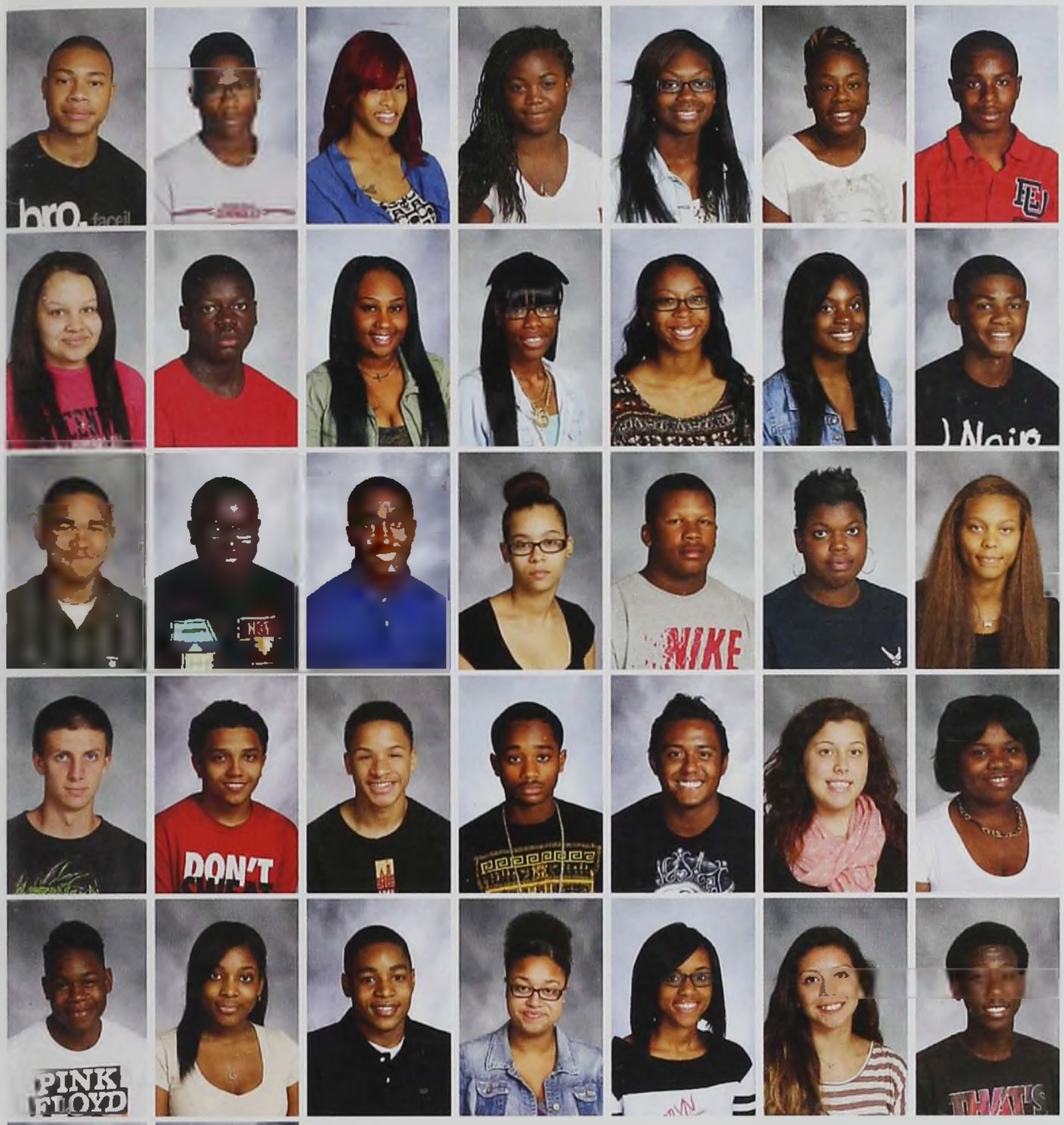
Antonia Stewart
Briah Stinson
Chloe Stone
Jonathan Streck
Frank Strug Jr.
Benjamin Styx
Maurice Swain
Malika Sweeney

Jaz Talley
Miguel Tapia
Brandon Taylor
Courtney Taylor
Jocariay Taylor
D'Artagnan Taylor Jr.
Desmond Thomas
Kinicki Thompson

Victoria Thompson
Robin Townsend
Lubica Trenoski
Samantha Triplett
Jonathan Tucker
Sydney Tucker
Joseph Turley
Anthony Turner

Marlon Turner II
Joseph Twitdy
Brittnay Valant
Cassandra Vargas
De'Janae Varnado
Sarah Varney
Sierra Vasquez-McGee
Quanisha Vaughn

Eric Vazquez
Gregory Vega Jr.
Brenda Velasco
Yadhira Velez
Elizabeth Vinson
Hope Wagonblast
Wynonna Wagonblast
Mia Wahdan



Darius Walker
Everett Ware III
Brittany Washington
Kashay Welch
Janae West
Jazmine West
Tyler Westbrook

Aaliyah Williams
Adrian Williams
Arianna Williams
Ashley Williams
Jasmine Williams
Jermisa Williams
Montrell Williams

Rashaad Williams
Lawrence Williams Jr
Xayvion Williamson
Autum Wilson
Malik Winbush
Cameron Wingate
Deliah Winters

Richard Witkowski
Darshawn Woodard
Darren Woods
Reesie Woods III
Willie Woods IV
Andria Woodworth
Ci'Erra Wright

Jerrod Wright
Kennady Wright
Keon Wright
Nadia Wright
Taja Wright
Vanessa Yanez
Joseph Young

Kierra Young
Nicholas Zubik

Shy Faces

Nicholas Barnes
Kendall Bell
Edward Bibbs II
Darwind Chism
Deonna Cox
Antonio Drak

George Duncan IV
Jermia Ellis
Alicia Gomez
Ajanae Harris
Jody Harris
Imari Howard

Benjamin Jackson
Kenneth Johnson III
Jacob Kirk
Skye Martin
KeYuana Membres
Jayda Morgan

Marquise Reed
David Smith
Silas Sparrow
Erielle Swims
Wayne Turcotte
Alexandria Turner
Luke Zyvak

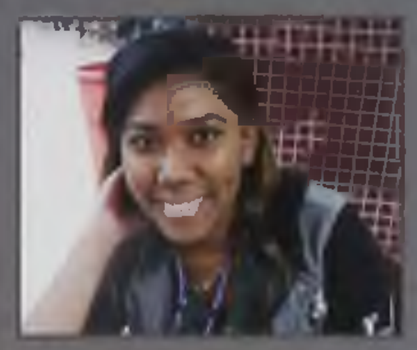
While preparing to participate in the tug of war at the Goofy Games Juniors Destiny Chaves and Khandi King look for other participants "I wanted to do the Goofy Games again because I loved the high school experience." Chaves said. This is King's second year participating in the Goofy Games. "My favorite part was the pudding slide," King said.

Juniors flatter their classmates

"If snowflakes were kisses, I'd give you a blizzard"
Fernando Leon

I must be lucky because you're my charm."
Khalece Ford

"You're so sweet, you put Hershey's out of business."
Juan Padilla



"I need to get a library card because I'm definitely checking you out."
Alexis Harris-Medina

Faculty and Staff

Gerald Akujobi, Custodial
Robert Albers Custodial
Christopher Anderson, Guidance Intern
Janet Anderson Art
Joseph Atria, Science
Cheryl Austin, Science
Vernon Baity, Maintenance
Michelle Barker Science

Amber Baron Social Studies
Pete Batalis, Maintenance
Amy Beckham, Athletics
Carrie Bedwell, English
Robert Bedwell, Social Studies
Brad Best Security
Kathy Bihlman Wellness
Kathleen Bilderback Custodial

Jeremy Bilka Math
Lora Bish, Guidance
Mae Blakely, Cafeteria
Erica Boards, Cafeteria
Wade Boise, Math
Harry Boskamp III, Math
Janelle Bowen, Media Services
Alan Branda Math

Sharlyne Buchanan Instructional Aide
Gayle Burgstahler Media Center Clerk
Melissa Byerly, World Languages
Kristin Campbell Science
Cole Carr, Media Center/Technology
Prezonia Carroll Cafeteria
Shana Chelich, World Languages
Byron Clark, In-School Suspension

Meghan Clinton, Student Teacher
Patrick Coffey, Physical Education/Health
John Collom, Special Education
Hannah Coronado, World Languages
Lorraine Covaciu, Administration
Arnetha Crittenden Special Education
Bruce Curme Science
Dawn Czuba English As A New Language

Monica DaCosta Gomez World Languages
Carol Dahlen, In-School Suspension
Ben Daniel, Physical Education/Health
Sarah Daniels, Social Studies
Mark Danielson, Performing Arts/Band
Melinda Davis, Cafeteria
Grace Dewald, Guidance
Christine Dixon, Business

Scott Doebler Student Teacher
Pam Dortch, Student Services
Gajic Dragica Custodial
Nancy Draper Math
Jeffrey Eaton Math
Josefina Elscupides, Cafeteria
Colin Elliott Special Education
Michael Engle, English

Meghan Erickson, Media Center
Jeffrey Fairbairn, Physical Education/Health
Mark Fairbairn, Custodial
Robert Fernando, Custodial
Tim Finnerty Resource Officer
Brigitte Floyd Nurse
Brian Fogarty Social Studies
Julie Fregien Math

Susan Gaines Teachers Aide
Kathleen Gaines, English As a New Language
Paul Gallivan, Maintenance
Matthew Garner, Math
William Garner Industrial Arts
Gregory Geimer, Guidance
Theodore Gilbert, In-School Suspension
Dejan Gilic, Custodial

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Elizabeth Gillespie, Math
Sara Gleason, English
Amy Govert, Physical Education
Jennifer Gray, Cafeteria
Marybeth Gregor, Cafeteria
Gregory Griffith, Maintenance
Juan Guajardo, Maintenance
Linda Hall, Secretary

Wardell Hargrove, Substitute
Teresa Harness, Cafeteria
Joshua Harvoth, PNN
Virginia M. Hauhfelder, Special Education
Christina Haverty, Custodial
Kim Hayes, Special Education
Susan Hayes, Physical Education
Georgie Head, Cafeteria

Kira Healy, Math
Brian Hebert, Security
Robert Heckler, Science
Dave Hinkel, Science
Anthony Hofer, Social Studies
Gina Holloman, Special Education
Katelyn Holsclaw, Social Worker
Cari Hooper, Guidance

David Hossler, English
Jason Hostetler, English
Sean Hudson, Administration
Richard Hurey, Industrial Arts
Joseph Hussey, Math
Elaine Hydinger, Secretary
Elisha Israel, English
Timothy James, Administration

Benjamin Johnson, Cafeteria
Darcie Johnston, Special Education
James Johnston Jr., Industrial Arts
Kathy Jones, Special Education
Betty Jordan, Guidance
Joseph Jurisa, Maintenance
Nicki Jusko, Athletics
Andy Kaplar, In-School Suspension

Sean Kavois, Special Education
Jason Kendera, Instructional Aide
Nicole Kendrick-Wilbon, Security
Sarah Kennedy, Art
Elizabeth Kenyon, Media Center
Mark Keyes, Maintenance
Sean Kinsey, Social Studies
Lena Kiser, Treasurer

Debra Klippel, Secretary
Andjelija Knezevic, Custodial
Michael Knocke, Social Studies
Nada Kolar, Custodial
Jason Kontas, Special Education
Themelina Kritikos, Cafeteria
Michael Krutz, Principal
Linda Kulina, Special Education

Danny Lackey, Diversity Coordinator
Jeffrey Lang, Performing Arts/Orchestra
Jesse Long, Substitute Teacher
Latonya Lopez, Security
Luis Lopez, Science
Rae Lopez, Business
Tricia Lukawski, Physical Education/Health
Anthony Lux, Math

Tom Mackey, Performing Arts/Theatre
Kristin Maglish, Wellness
David Maldonado, World Languages
Veronica Maldonado, Guidance
Ryan Manley, Science
Chyamiah Martin, Science
Joseph Martin, Security
Brenda Martinez, Cafeteria

Faculty and Staff

Rachelle Massacavollo, Math
Deborah McBride, Substitute Teacher
Pattie McGhee Cafeteria
Patricia McWay, Custodial
Sean Meagher, Math
Elaine Mendez, Special Education
Lee Meyer, English
Nisa Milosavljevich Custodial

Vesna Mitic, Custodial
Alan Mizimakoski English
Noura Mohamed, Cafeteria
Joseph Monahan English
Debra Monix, English
Robert Moran, Special Education
Helen Moravskij, Custodial
LaFonda Morris, Administration

Dan Moslander, Social Studies
Erin Mulloy-Flores, English
Kelly Murphy, Technology
Kristina Musielak, English
Mary Lee Neylon Media Services
Gail Nicolini, Math
Bonnie Niksch Media Services
Kawana Noland, Cafeteria

Beth O'Halek Special Education
Martha Ortiz, Teachers' Aide
Michelle Paolone, Cafeteria
Brian Parker Social Studies
Rick Parker, Special Education
Stacy Parkhurst, Cafeteria
Penny Parmley, Cafeteria
William Parnell, Maintenance

Brian Past, PNN
Deanne Pierce, Math
Steven Prather Industrial Arts
Terry Pratt, Art
Teresa Procter, English
Kyle Prow, Physical Education/Health
Rose Pulliam, Security
Janis Qualizza, Athletics

Maj Guy Ramey AFJROTC
Shelley Ray, FACS
James Regan Maintenance
Kari Regan English
Melinda Reinhart, Performing Arts/Choir
Leilani Reiser Cafeteria
Ruben Reyes, Security
Judy Riba, Nurse

Christopher Richardson, Social Studies
Pamela Roberts, Cafeteria
Marcus Robinson, Custodial
Patricia Robison, Science
Kathleen Rock, Math
Glenda Rodriguez, Cafeteria
Susan Rosenwinkel, Cafeteria
Valetta Ross Cafeteria

Sharon Row, Business
Joshua Sabinas Science
Brenda Sanders, Cafeteria
ChiCha Sanders Special Education
Sherri Scartozzi Student Services
Heidi Scheillinger, Study Hall
Mark Schellinger Social Studies
Gary Schlinger Science

Sandra Scholtens, Teachers Aide
Dan Schoon, Social Studies
Pamela Schuetz, English
Marica Sekuloska, Custodial
Charles Seligman, Math
Melissa Sickinger, English
James Simon, Special Education
Veronica Siwy, Physical Education

Faculty and Staff

Alison Skertic, English
Patricia Smith, Media Center Clerk
Patricia Smith, FACS
Jason Sonnenberg, English
Rachel Sonnenberg, English
Mark Sperling, Superintendent of Schools
Irene Spiro, World Languages
Dawnell Spriggs, Teacher's Aide

Samantha St. Aubin, English
Dean Stadt, Custodial
Debra Staffeld, Math
Jacob Stafford, Social Studies
Sara Stallings, FACS
James Stamper, Administration
Jean Stanford, English
Luke Starkey, Social Studies

Anita Steele, Cafeteria
Zoran Stefanovic, Custodial
Ellis Stewart, Maintenance
Michael Stills, Science
Al Stoner Jr., World Languages
Michelle Sulich, Guidance
Thomas Sweet, Custodial
Melissa Szczerba, Special Education

Brenda Talley, Cafeteria
Marnita Taylor, Administration
Tracy Taylor, Cafeteria
David Teeter, Industrial Arts
Gale Thomas, Cafeteria
Kurtedia Thomas, Cafeteria
Jeffrey Trivette, Business
Patti Tubbs, FACS

Paul Unterfranz, English
Melissa Valsi, Science
Beverly Van Drunen, In-School Suspension
Joy Varela, Custodial
Carol Von Behren, FACS
Darrell Washington, Security
Elzina Washington, Cafeteria
Ronda Waters, Science

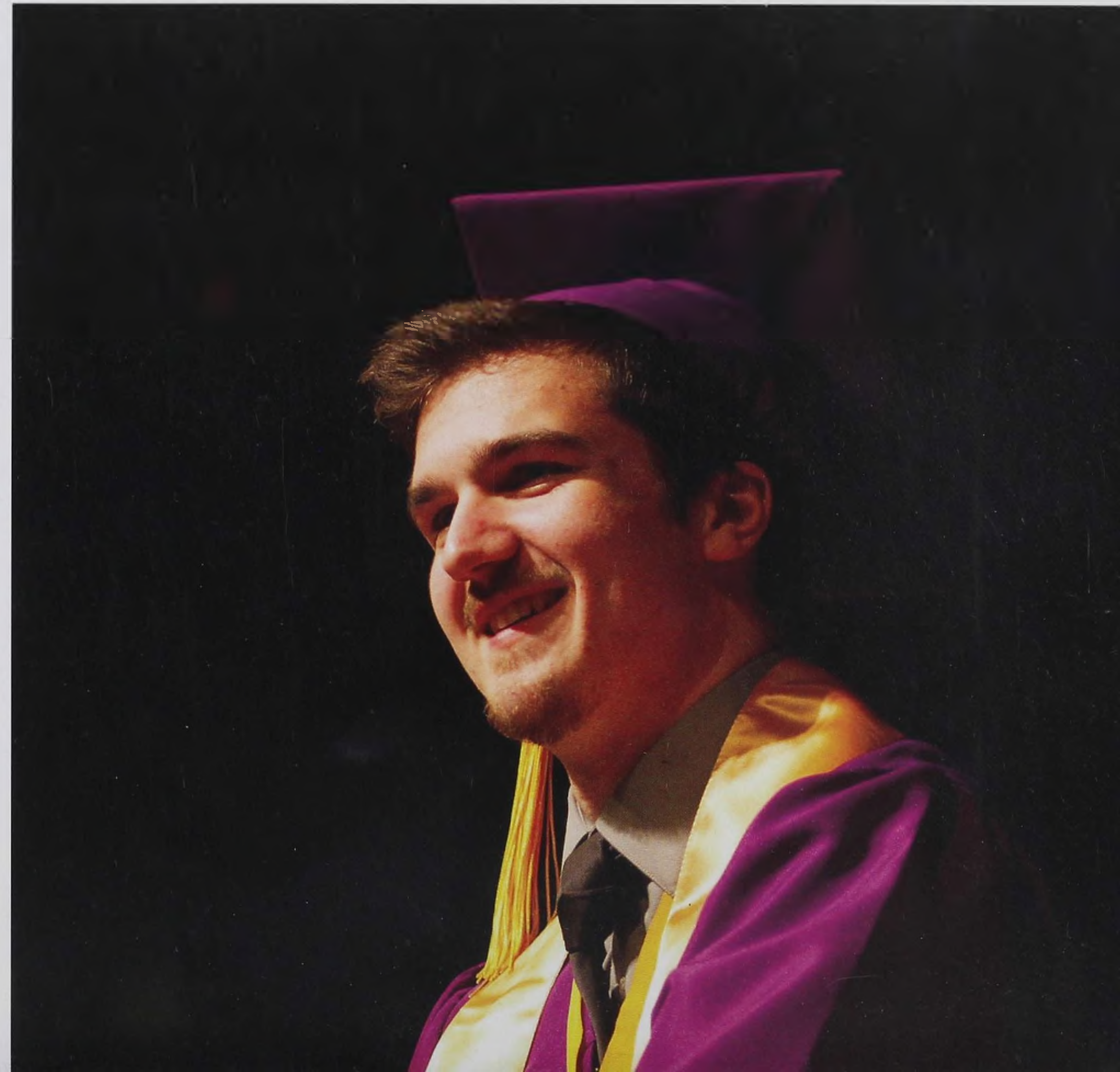
Kerry Wiersbe, Guidance
Sally Williamson, Science
Debra Willison, Secretary
Michelle Wilson, Guidance
Donald Wirick, Maintenance

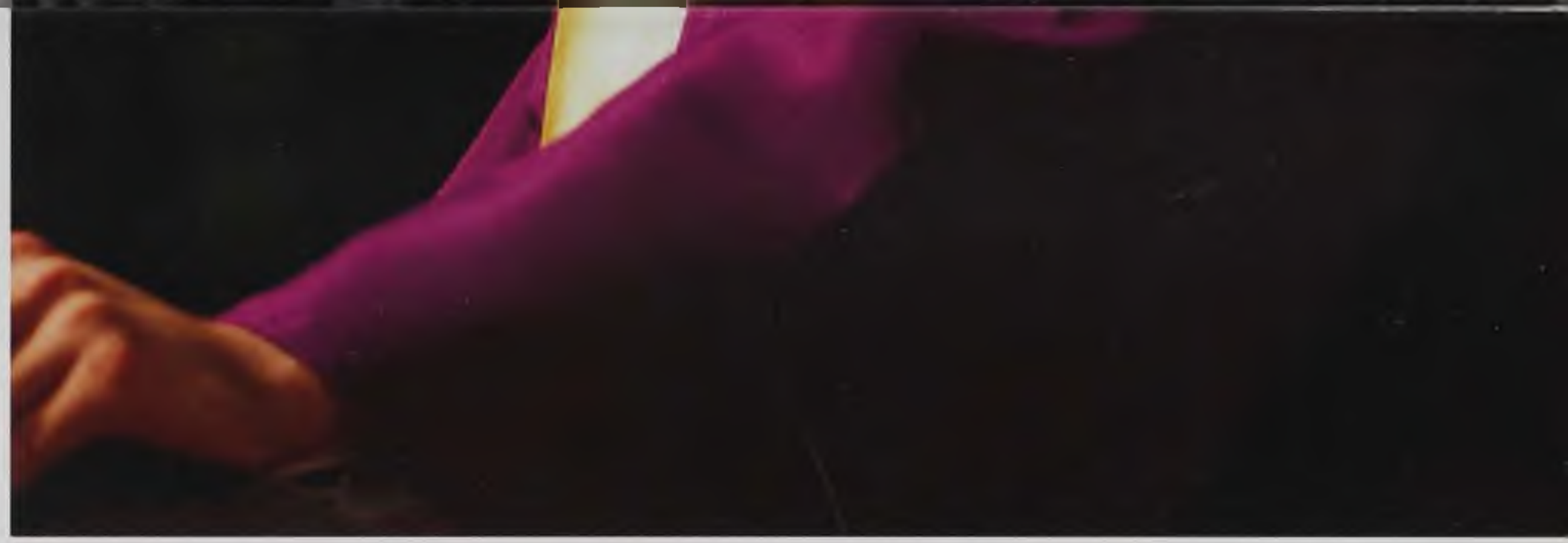
Genevieve Wirtz, Cafeteria
Sgt. Daniel Wrasman, AFJROTC
Troy Yeager Student Teacher
Dorothy Yetsko, Cafeteria
Brian Zdych, Physical Education/Health

At the championship Dodgeball Game, Senior Joshua Jones poses with his teammates Seniors Ryan Soto, Jose Gonzalez, Joshua Barron, Michael Martin Jr. and Damian DiGangi. "We didn't need to train. We practiced eighth grade year and came senior year and we won again," Jones said.

Eyes focused on watching the Senior-Faculty Basketball Game, Senior David Hertl enjoys watching the game. "There isn't one thing that I would change about the whole year," Hertl said. Hertl's favorite part was the Senior Dodgeball Tournament. "The only advice I have for underclassmen is to focus and always work hard," Hertl said.

On Camouflage Day in September, Seniors Larissa Harris, E'laija Mayo and Marshawna Kendrick stand and socialize with each other. "Senior year was good, and it went by fast," Kendrick said. "My highlights were senior night for dance and Prom night." She plans on attending St. Joseph's College on a dance scholarship, and she plans on majoring in education.





Concluding his Valedictory commencement speech, Senior Michael Anderson smiles out at his fellow graduates. "Reunions and Farewells will fill our coming months. Remember to celebrate your accomplishments no matter how small, and endure your struggles no matter how large," Anderson said during his speech. Anderson plans to work in the field of aeronautics in the future.

Michael Anderson reaches his potential

Being homeschooled when he was younger up until eighth grade Senior Michael Anderson wanted to achieve the goal of being on the valedictorian list. Since freshman year Anderson knew this was something he could achieve once he received his first report card of the year and it was all A's.

"My sister was valedictorian when she was in high school so I wanted to live up to that potential of becoming one also," Anderson said.

Anderson found out when grades were posted second semester that he was one of the four valedictorians. Anderson knew a big weight was going to be lifted off his shoulders.

"I was very excited. I worked very hard for this, and I took time for extra studying and putting my schoolwork first," Anderson said.

Anderson will be attending the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, Florida to major and study in Aerospace engineering and earn his master's degree. Anderson wants to be a part of the research team for commercial airlines such as Boeing, for developing and improving them and one day working on airplanes. The school offered him their presidential scholarship.

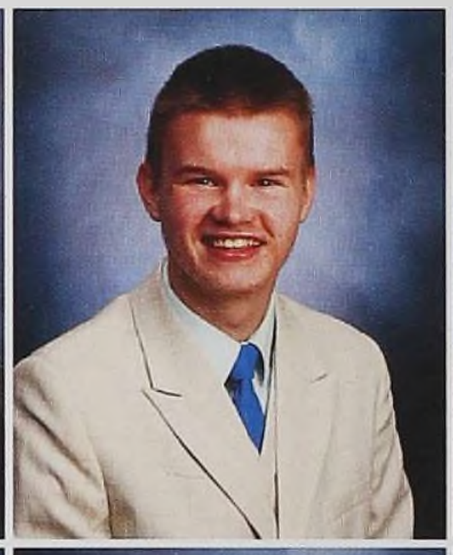
"Being valedictorian helped with my college application. It looks better and made getting scholarships a little bit easier," Anderson said.

Anderson comes from a family of engineers. Originally he wanted to help with the project of putting a man on Mars, but once this program was canceled he researched other majors involved in aerospace and decided to stick with working on planes.

"When I was younger I wanted to go into the space program of engineering and maybe one day put a man on Mars," Anderson said.

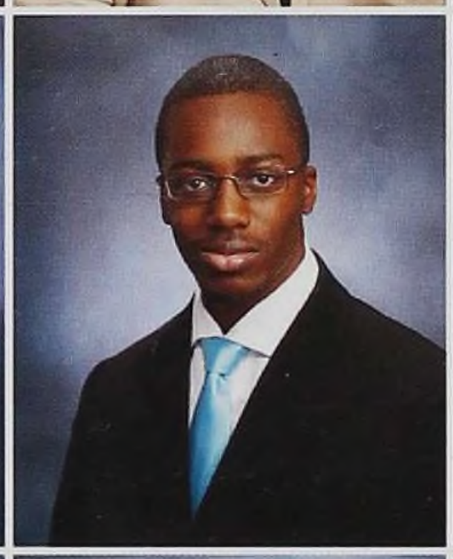
Being involved in a few clubs such as Academic Decathlon and Quiz Bowl Anderson also played on a volleyball league outside of school.

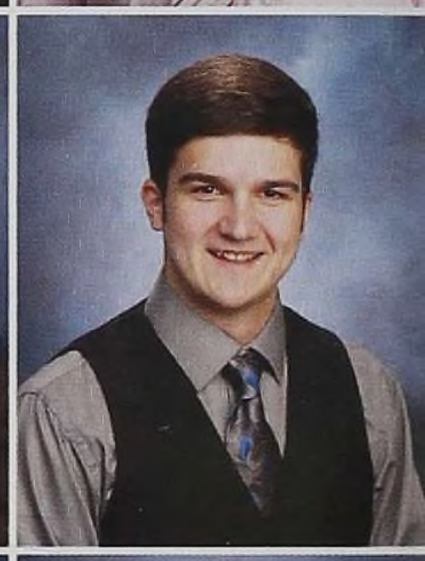
Niesha Aaron
Kelsey Ahlborn
Jimmy Aiken
Brandon Akers



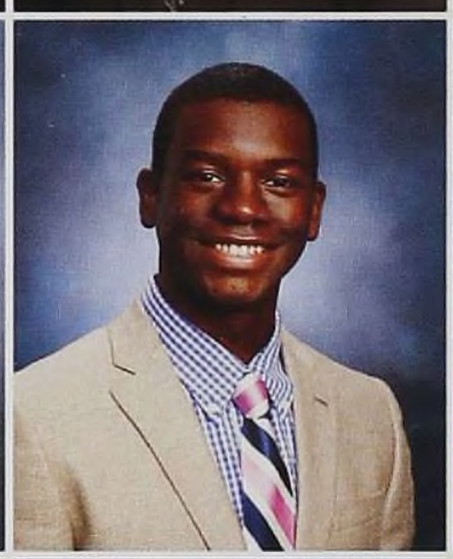
Kameisha Akins
William Akins III
Alexis Alexander
Hasan Ali

Kiarra Allen
Isaiah Alleyne
Jacob Anderson
Michael Anderson





Robert Anderson III
T'Aira Anderson
Chiamara Anokwute
Rickesha Armstrong



Sebastian Arreola
Melanie Atria
Megan Austin
Michael Bailey

Class of 2014

Joshua Barron
Marcus Bass
Tiera Bean
Alexander Begala

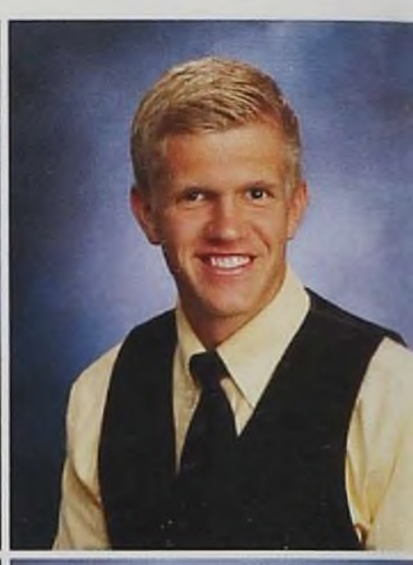
Nadia Belk
Niles Bell
Aaron Beshears
Ja'Kwanna Biffle

Marisa Black
Morgan Bonick
Cameron Boone
Amira Boyd

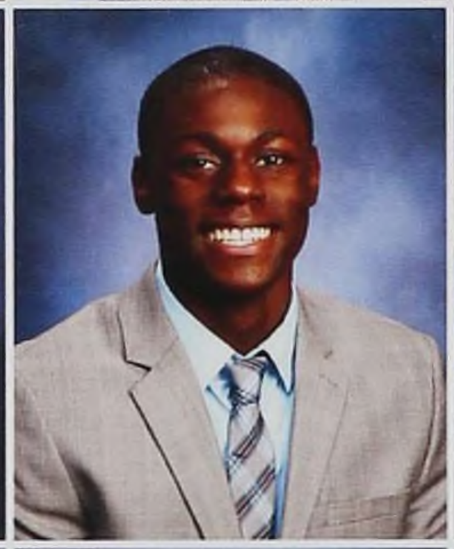
Morgan Boyd
David Brady
Juanita Brandon
Jessica Broom

Jalynn Brown
Jermaine Brown Jr.
Caitlinn Caddick
Britnye Cameron

Chialyn Campbell
Edmond Campbell
Bianca Cardenas
Jacob Carey



Danbrielle Carter
Michaud Cherry
Ashley Christie
Larry Clark Jr.



Taylor Cody
Sharkayla Coffee
Tristan Coghill
Jeffery Colby

Tashod Coleman
Maggie Connelly
Abdul-Raqib Cox
Aliza Crawford

Xavier Crenshaw
Waymon Cruse
Mercedes Cruz
Tiana Cuttino

Class of 2014

Daisy Davis
Joshua Davis
Teirra Davis
Joshua DeLeon

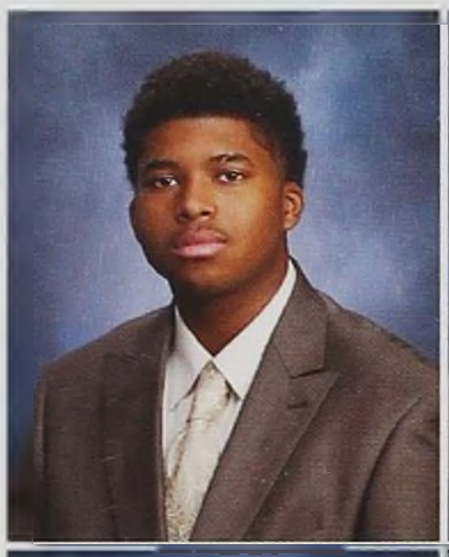
Alexis Deter
Damian DiGangi
Shaquita Dillard
Hannah Dixon

Nhu Doan
Alexandra Dobrea
Audrianna Downs
Joshua Drapeau

Jordan Ducret
Nadia Duke
Willa Earwin
Elias Eaton

Brittany Edmond
Brittany Ervin
Madeline Estrada
Colin Evans

Jeremy Flakes
Allison Fletcher
Kiara Fuller
Tyrie Fuller



Darrin Funches Jr.
Harold Gage
Marissa Gallardo
Isaac Garnello

Christian Garza
Joseph Gawrysiak
Keon Gibson
Ronnie Giles Jr.

Gakia Gillespie
Aiyana Glover
Logan Glover
Jose Gonzalez

Kristina Goodman
Cassandra Govert
Brooke Grady
Raelyn Greene

Class of 2014

Andrew Gross
Katy Guzek
Katelyn Haddaway
Jonathon Hammonds

Ashley Hansbury
Philip Harper II
Rachel Harper
Corey Harris Jr.

Larissa Harris
Myranda Harris
Tre'von Harris
Nicholas Hayes

Jenae Haymond
Ana Hernandez
Sara Hernandez
David Hertl Jr.

Salvador Higareda Jr.
Monica Highler
Conor Hill
Cambrielle Hills

Shelby Holden
Matthew Hollins
Tonajah Hooks
Sherelle Hopson

Dashaun Horde
Marquise Horton
Adrean Howard
Chloe Howard

Branden Hull
Benjamin Hulsey
Rachel Humes
John Irak IV

Bryant Isabell
Sharell Ivey Jr.
Amanda Jackson
Nygel Jackson

Brittany Jewell
Arlana Johnson
Desaree Johnson
Tiffany Johnson

Class of 2014

Carl Jones
Isis Jones
Jason Jones Jr.
Niesha Jones

Michael Joseph
Tamera Julkes
Tyler Kaiser
Shawntriana Kelley

Brian Kelly
Marshawna Kendrick
Darryl King
Janell King

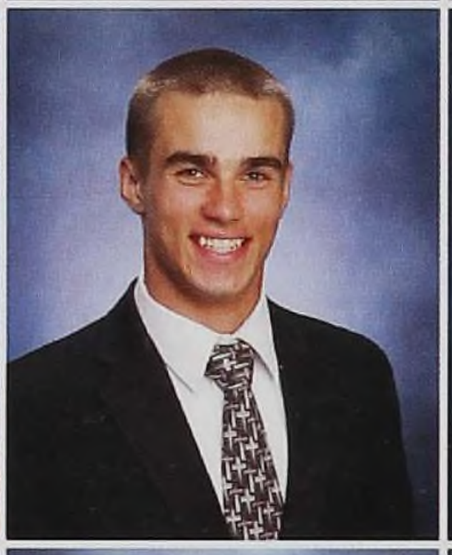
Ronell King
Sebastian Kofoed
Kyle Krause
Domonique Lambert

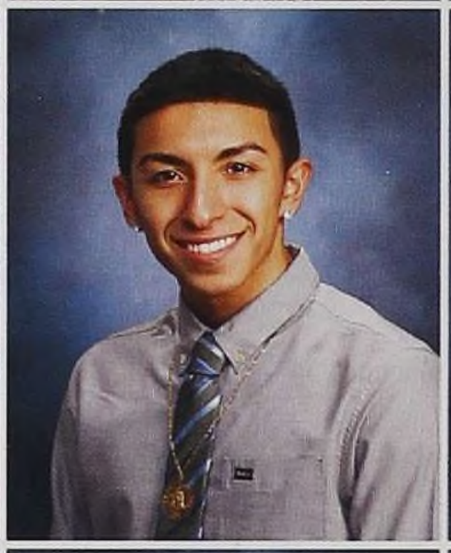
Deonte Lars
Camille Lee
Deven Lee
Jasmine Lilja

Kayla Lindsey
Michael Lipscomb
Jemonte' Love
Angelique Maclin

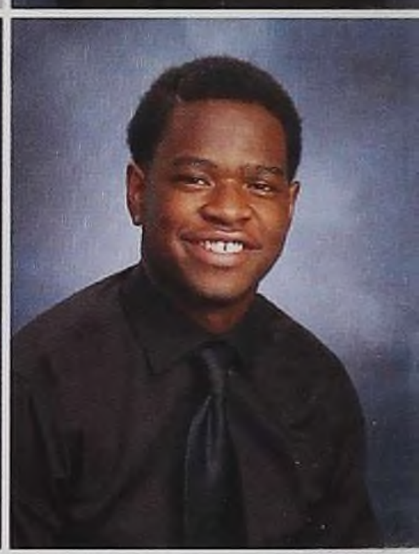
Shawn Manna
Keith Manuel Jr.
Adrianne Marquez
Tomeria Marshall

Christa Martin
Joel Martin
Juan Martinez III
Briana Mason





Johnny Mathis Jr.
Marquise Maxwell
E'laija Mayo
Kenneth McDowell



Jasmin McGee
Luretha McGinnis
Tina McGinnis
Matthew Meacham

Class of 2014

Jennifer Meloy

Chase Mihal

Ariana Miller

Victoria Miller

Paige Mills

Bryan Mitchell

Rebekah Mongold

Darriald Morgan Jr.

DeVonia Morris

Deja Murphy

Lauren Neal

Ryan Neal

ShaVonne Nelson

Robert Nielsen

Christina Nilsson

Elizabeth Nino

Thomas Novak Jr.

Alan Nunn

Kyle Nymeyer

Alyssa Otano

Tadja Outlar
Jvaughn Owens
Angelique Oyervides
Karlos Pacheco

Charles Pena
Jasmin Pollard
Le Ann Powell
Matthew Proper

Yvonya Randle
Luke Ratley
Michael Reese
Whitney Reese

RaJaune' Richards
Kamaria Richardson
Olivia Richmond
Cortlan Robinson

Malik Robinson
Bryona Rodriguez
Landon Rosa
Kayla Sadural

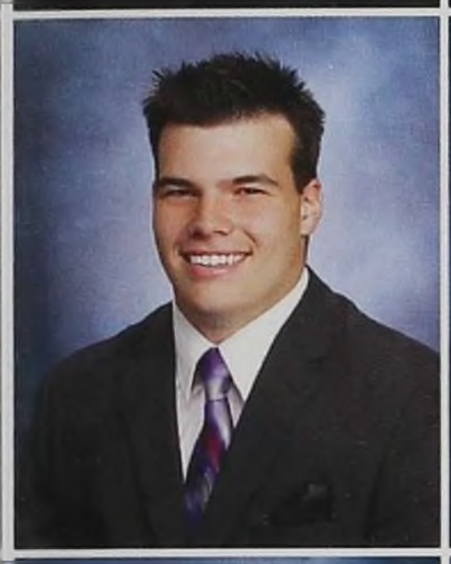
Class of 2014

Alexander Sampson

Senobia Sanders

Yazmeen Sanders

Kathryn Sarsfield



Thomas Scolaro III

A'Leah Scott

Kiera Shackelford

Jada Shannon

Conor Shea

Alondria Shufford

Brandi Sims

Crissy Smith

Imani Smith

Jordan Smith

Jordyn Smith

Joseph Smith II

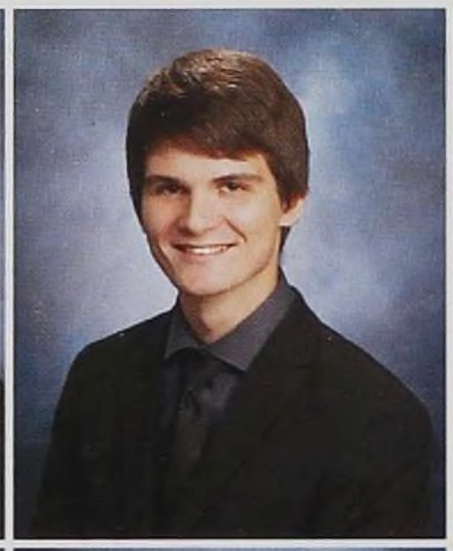
Lauren Smith

Domonique Smith

Trayvion Smith

Valencia Smith

Ryan Soto
Michael Spicknall
Isabella Stevens
Giara Stevenson



Paris Stewart
CeCe Stokes
Adam Tapper
Brittany Taylor

Byron Taylor
Damien Taylor
Janelle Taylor
Jasmine Taylor

Robert Taylor
Alissa Terry
Krysta Thomas
Miah Thornton

Kristin Thorton
Larry Tillman Jr.
Ashley Timmons
Susana Tirado

Class of 2014

Riana Todd
Breyanna Turner
Horace Turner III
Reginald Turner

Tommie van Zegvelde
Martiana Varnado
Alicia Vasquez
Vanessa Villarreal

Kura Walker
Michallia Ward
Andreana Wesley
Johnell West

Naeemah White
Kennedy Wilck
Kirsten Wiley
Megan Wilkerson

Chelsea Williams
My-Nisha Williams
Perijana Williams
Shawnece Williams

Shyvon Williams
Asia Wilson
Taylor Woods

Camera

Marquis Adams
Henry Akinbobuyi
Amaryllis Alvarez
Akeishia Amiker
Dominique Anderson
Kierra Anderson
Elisha Armstead
Willie Armstrong
Soledad Barajas-Bautista
Victor Baranda Jr.
David Barefield
De'Ron Barefield
Jonathan Barksdale
Brandon Bass
Darne' Bell
Gerald Bentley
Samuel Blockson
Charles Bonner III
Joshua Brewer
Victoria Brewer
Emmanuel Briseno
Shane Brousseau
Kimber Brown
Tony Brown
A'Vont'e Burl
Craig Burns Jr.

Jonathan Camper
Gabriel Carbajal
Michael Carprue
Keith Carr Jr.
David Carrera
Shareef Cauley
Adonis Chandler
Devin Charnago
Caylyn Clark
DeyJhauna Clark
Ashley Clemons
Denzel Cockrell
Joseph Coleman IV
Kenneth Coleman Jr.
Isaiah Colon
Christian Conroy II
Steven Cook
Charnise Cooper
Valentino Corralez
Martha Correa
Corey Crawford
Dakota Cummins
Dylan Danforth
Brett Deline
Angel DeLa Cruz
Jacqueline DeLeon

Selena Diaz
Faiza Dika
T'Niya Dix
Toshiana Dixon
Dennis Dombrowski
Angelo Dominguez
Dariel Donson
Tyshay Doss
Bakari Draper
Ashley Duncan
Brionna Duncan
Diamond Eddie
Emerald Eddie
Raymond Escamilla IV
Aresa Evans
Destiny Felix
Billy Fields III
Napri' Fondren
Anthony Forbes Jr.
Shawn Forbes
Glenn Ford III
Kenneth Ford III
Briana Fraizer
Aaron Fuller
Tatianna Gaona
Celina Garcia
Jazmin Garcia

Michael Garza
Cody Gilbert
Cameron Giles
Paul Glover
Joaquin Gomez
Jacob Gonzales
Calvin Graham
Billy Grant Jr.
Henson Greaves Jr.
Devone Greer
Josiah Grey
Alden Griggs
Edward Gryczewski
Gloria Hall
Jewlissah Hardin
Mia Harper
Kyle Hartlerode
Antonio Holguin
Joshua Holmes
Shantay Howard
Timothy Howard
Kermit Howell III
Amaretta Hudson
Rhone Hughey
Ja'Cari Hutch
Talya Ireland
Jahdai Jackson

Le'Dariun Jackson
Jaylyn Jarrett
Kemuel Jeffries
Briena Johnson
Efferem Johnson
Effricka Johnson
Isaac Johnson Jr.
Johnathon Joiner
Daphiney Jones
Enrique Jones
Joshua Jones
Deon Jones Jr.
Marcus Jones
Tiara Joseph
Robert Kammer
Demesha Kelly
Timothy King
Shawnay Lardydell
Shakira Lenoir
Alaila Lewis
Christopher Lloyd Jr.
Eric Lockhart
Devanie Lopez
Markese Luvert
Jaqela Macon
Donald Magee III
Mariah Marcano

Rebecca Wray
Whitney Wright
Denzel Young

Shy Faces

Pearea' Marshall
Darius Marteen
Stacy Martin-Ellison Jr.
Michael Martin Jr.
Martez Martin
Felecia Martinez
Luke Martinez
Devin Matthews
Ronald Mayersky Jr.
Collins Mbachu Jr.
Shauntierra McClain
Donovan McCray
Garland McGhee III
Taylor McGuire
Demetrious McKeethen
Nia McMurray
Nathaniel McNary
Jose Medina
Patricia Meza-DeLaTorre
Kathleen Mitchell
Dewayne Montgomery
Diante' Montgomery
James Morgan
Howard Murray
Jasmin Navarro
Sharday Neely
Anna Newell

Terrance Nichols
Travone Norman
Alison Nowak
Ashley Nowak
Brandon Oliver
Roy'l Oliver
Jeremiah Ontiveros
David Osorio
Alyssa Otano
Dalvin Owens
Layla Owens
CheyAnne Parker
Kenneth Parkham Jr.
Erica Parks
Frederick Patterson Jr.
Sean Patton
Elizabeth Pena
Gabriel Perez III
Courtney Peterson
Lonnie Pitts
Britney Platts
Kimneisha Poke
Nathane Polezoes
Raelyn Purham
Amber Quinn
Brittany Rainey
Jameelah Rasheed

Khayla Reid
Isaac Rentas
Justin Richardson
Edward Riley
Robert Riley
Abria Roberson
Darnell Robinson Jr.
Eric Robinson Jr.
Jourdain Rogers
Lorrita Ross
Lovell Rouse
Lynette Ruiz
Olivia Ruiz
Zoe Saavedra
Jonathan Salazar
Aaron Sanders
Alya Shelton
Emmanuel Shoulder
Daja Shufford
Nicole Sims
Ahdezjia Smith
Christopher Smith
Cree Smith
Eric Smith Jr.
Oyeodiba Smith Jr.
Troy Smith Jr.
Juwan Smith

Quanzell Snowden
Tori Spear
Michael Spudic Jr.
Tatiana Starks
Kasey Stewart
Shauntaliane Stewart
Jacob Stocker
DeMario Streeter
Royce Stringer
Harold Taylor Jr.
Daverious Teat
Tihyya Terry
Adrien Teverbaugh
Donjionea Thomas
Kamara Thomas
Trevor Timmons
Samuel Trent
Kevin Ursery
Nicholas Vallone
Horizon Vasquez- McGee
Hoang Vu
Ashton Washington
Trey'Vonn Washington
Frank Webster
Makayla Webster
Keith Wells

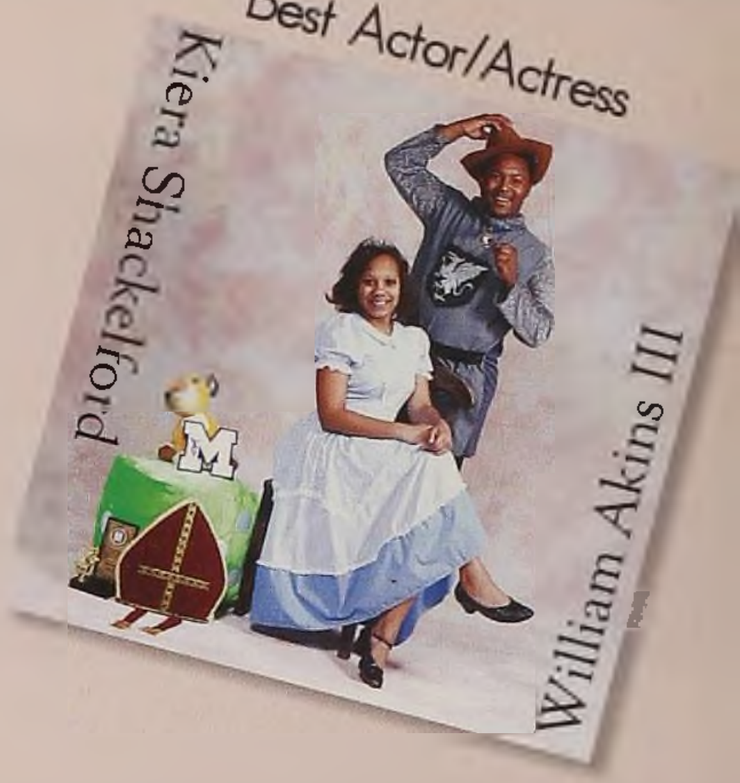
Leona Wheeler
Ethan White
Kalie Whittle
Maria Wietfeldt
Spencer Wiggins Jr.
Mekia Wiggins
Corinthia Wilder
Ashley Williams
Daveion Williams
DeArriel Williams
Dorothy Williams
Khandyz Williams
Lamontyonna Williams
Leslie Williams
Montana Williams
Terrence Williams
Javaun Willis
Jordan Wilson
Ronald Woods
Tyre Wrenn
Brittany Wright
James Wright III
Monta Wright
Eduardo Yanez Jr.
Yasmin Yasin

Senior Choice Awards

Most Talkative

Best Hair

Best Actor/Actress



Cutest Couple

Most Popular

Most Likely to become Famous

Class Clown

Best Personality

Best Eyes

Best Dancer

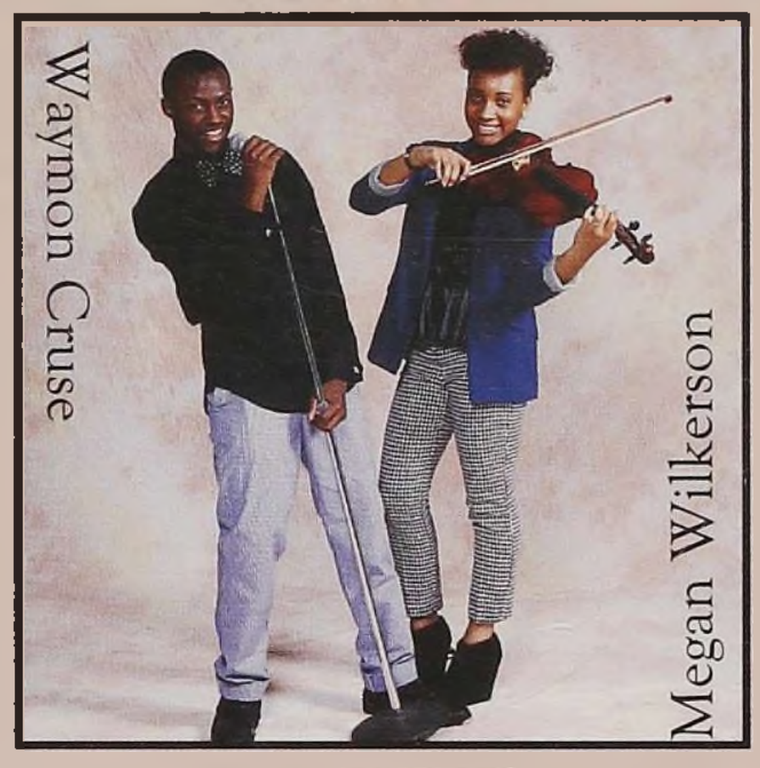
Most Actively Involved

Best Car

Best Dressed

Most Likely to Teach at MHS

Most Musical

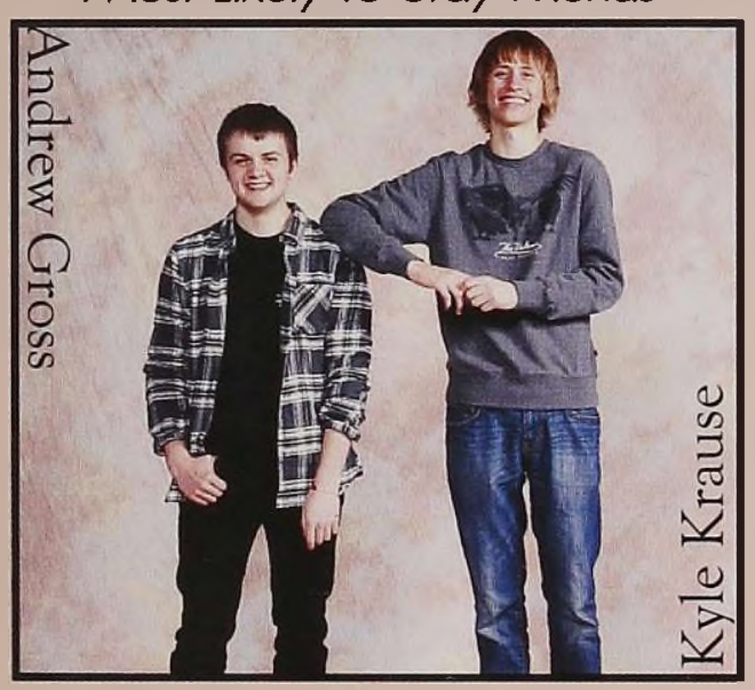


Most Intelligent

Most Spiritual

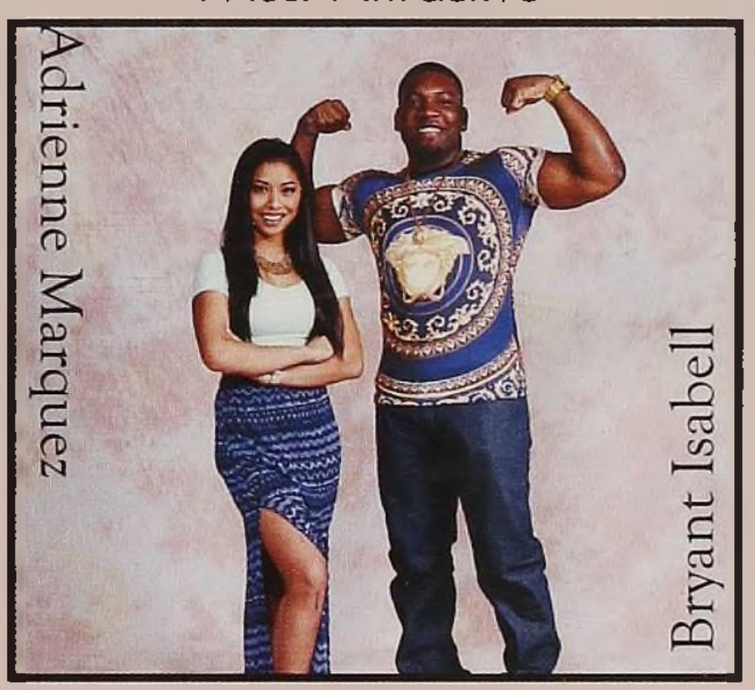
Most Likely to Succeed

Most Likely to Stay Friends



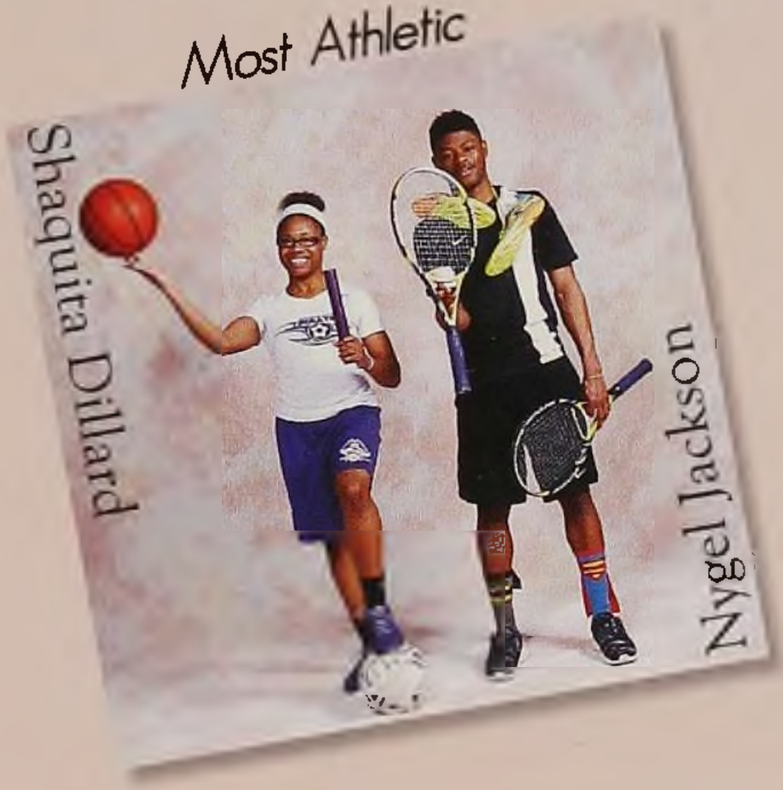
Most Likely to Stay Friends

Most Attractive



Best Smile

Most Athletic



Most Spirited

Seniors gather for

Class of 2014

One of the last events that seniors experience before Graduation is the Senior Breakfast and Drive Around.

Every year, the senior class gathers in the Main Cafeteria to eat breakfast and reminisce the past 12 years they had together. As students arrived they walked down a red carpet, some taking pictures, and then proceeded to the breakfast line.

Next several students and staff members announced the winners of Senior Choice Awards. A throwback video of old pictures of seniors while they attended Pierce Middle School and Merrillville Intermediate School played and many of the seniors that attended said they had a great time and enjoyed some of the last moments they had with their class before they ventured off to start their life.

"The breakfast was a lot more fun than I expected. It was nice to see people dressed up," Senior Hannah Dixon said.

"I didn't expect everyone to dress nicely. I liked the throwback slide show. People took some very embarrassing pictures, and just taking pictures was a highlight," Senior Nadia Duke

After the breakfast, seniors drove around the school. Some sat out of car windows and peeped out of the sun roof. Many students decided to spend the rest of their day at the beach and had fun together while they could.

"I almost broke my back hanging out of the car. It was a fun time and a great way to end senior year," Senior Landon Rosa said.

For some seniors, this last event was a realization of what the future holds.

"I probably won't see these people for a really long time or ever again," Dixon said.

"Life is about to start," Senior Jauvan Willis said.

While eating his breakfast, Senior Ryan Soto discusses his post-high school plans with fellow Seniors Jose Gonzalez, Kayla Sadural and Joshua Barron. "I'm going to the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I'm going to major in exercise science," Soto said.

As he laughs with all of his friends, Senior Logan Glover takes part in the Senior Breakfast. "The food at the breakfast was really great and it was funny with my friends," he said. Glover said he planned to join the Navy after his senior year.

As senior Brandi Sims sits with her friend Shakira Lenoir at the Senior Breakfast, she smiles at the camera. "I just want to congratulate the Class of 2014," Sims said. "We finally made it!" Her favorite memory of senior year was Prom. She loved seeing everybody dressed up and she said everybody looked nice.

At Senior Breakfast, Senior Alexander Begala sits and eats with his friends Seniors Michael Anderson, Chiamara Anokwute, Thomas Nueros and Sebastian Kofoed. "My favorite part was definitely seeing my fellow classmates look spiffy because I don't get to see them that often because of my schedule," Begala said.

breakfast and fun

Eyes focused on the cars around him, Senior Alan Nunn stretches his legs out while sitting on his car. "I had fun seeing all of the different cars and watching everyone enjoy themselves," he said. Nunn was an early graduate but came back for many events. "I wanted to come back to support all the events that seniors were in," he said. Nunn said he wants all underclassmen to know that they should show up to their Senior Drive-Around, it is an important event and they should be safe and enjoy themselves.

Standing out of the sunroof, Seniors Whitney Reese and Conor Shea wave. "Even though it hasn't happened yet, I already know my most memorable moment of senior year is Graduation," Shea said. "I can't wait!" She said that she hopes the underclassmen know to take a lot of pictures and go with their best of friends.

Posing for the camera, Senior Jourdain Rogers sits on top of her car. "Falling off of the hood of my car was the funniest part of the Drive-Around for me," Rogers said. Rogers wanted to drive during the event for seniors. "My advice to the underclassmen is to cherish and enjoy all the moments that you are given because it's bittersweet and goes by so fast," Rogers said.

Making a statement while riding in the stretch limo, Senior Daphiney Jones waves as she cruises around in the Senior Drive-Around. "My favorite part of the drive-around was going to the beach after with the whole class," Jones said. Jones rode in the limo with several of her classmates including Seniors Asia Wilson and Lamontyonna Williams.

Homerun Derby

Brett Deline

Jose Gonzalez

Coach Mark Schellinger

Coach Brian Parker

Bowling

Dean Jones

Mathew Meacham

Mr. Christopher Richardson

Mr. Joseph Hussey

Ping Pong

Mr. Alex Tsikouris

Megan Austin

Water Polo

Mr. Joshua Horvath

Aaron Fuller

Tennis

Coach James Simon

Ronald Mayersky

Faculty wins 9th decathalon

With the teachers capturing eight events and the seniors winning two, the teachers grabbed another victory from the seniors in the ninth annual Decathalon.

Social studies teacher and volleyball coach Mr. Luke Starkey was one of many who returned to the competition.

"This is my seventh year competing," Mr. Luke Starkey said. "I didn't prepare for this because I have been playing this for a long time and after a couple practices, I'm back to normal."

Mr. Starkey and Guidance Counselor Ms. Grace Dewald faced off against Seniors David Osorio and Katelyn Haddaway in the corn hole contest. Mr. Starkey won the event.

The seniors seemed to have the same attitude as the teacher.

"I just stretched and practiced some games." Haddaway said.

Some teachers chose a specific competition because they excel in a certain sport.

"I chose home run derby because I'm a baseball coach," Mr. Brian Parker said. "I have played baseball my whole life."

Mr. Parker and Mr. Mark Schellinger, both social studies teachers and varsity baseball coaches, beat Seniors Brett Deline and Jose Gonzalez in the competition, but it wasn't until the final round that the coach beat their baseball players.

In the spring baseball season, Deline had hit one home run and Gonzalez had 14 hits.

Some seniors said they were focused on winning their event for their class, while others were just trying to make memories for their senior year.

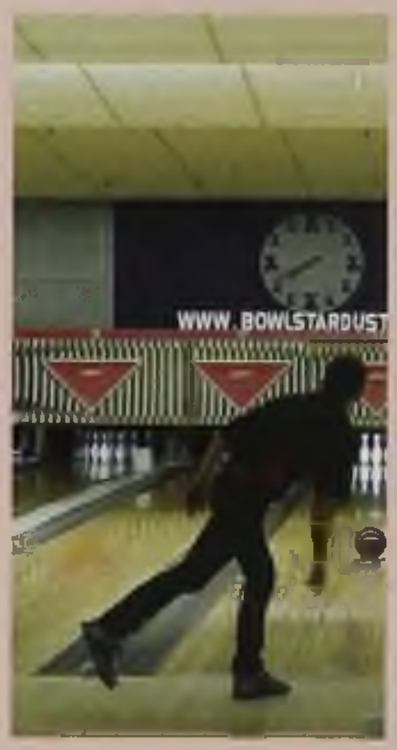
"I wasn't really worried about winning or losing," Gonzalez said. "I just wanted to have a good time. That's all it was about, having a good time with coaches."

Assistant boys' varsity basketball coach Brian Fogarty went up against Senior Diante' Montgomery in the free throw event.

"It's always fun going against students after they talk trash," Mr. Fogarty said. "It's fun to put them in their place."

While watching Ms. Grace DeWald toss her bag and follow through, Senior Katelyn Haddaway waits for her turn. Haddaway decided to participate in the Corn Hole event because her friend David Osorio asked her to. Haddaway said her strategy was to just beat the teachers or try not to lose horribly. "If I could change something, I would change the windy weather and of course beat the teachers," Haddaway said.

With his right arm stretched back, Mr. Kyle Prow gets ready to throw the football as far as he can. Mr. Prow was chosen by Mr. Brian Past to participate in the Punt, Pass, Kick event. "I didn't prepare for it and it was easy," Prow said, "but my punting didn't go so good."



While the bowling ball rolls down the lane, Senior Mat Meacham waits for the ball to collide with the pins. Meacham has been bowling since he was six years old and was on the high school team for four years. In 2010, Meacham went to Reno, Nevada for the national tournament for kids 14 and under. He was the 22nd in the nation.

Decathalon

During a quick game of ping pong, Mr. Alex Tsikouris backhands the ball to his senior opponent Megan Austin. Austin felt it would be fun. "I saw the seniors in years past and I felt I could do better," Austin said. Mr.Tsikouris said he felt great when he won. "To see the look on Megan's face was priceless," Mr.Tsikoris said. He signed up for the ping pong challenge just for fun. "I was challenged by Megan, once they said they weren't going to do the ping pong challenge any more we signed up just in case there was a rainy day," Mr.Tsikoris said.

In a down starting position, Senior Devin Lee gains the offensive advantage over his coach, John Cantu. A member of the wrestling team, Lee was chosen by his coaches to compete. "I accepted because I thought it would be fun," Lee said. "That was my first time wrestling in like a month, I was tired. Coach Cantu is bigger and has an advantage." Lee emerged as the winner of the Wrestling Challenge.

In an attempt to beat his coaches, Mr. Brian Parker and Mr. Mark Schellinger, Senior Jose Gonzales stands at the plate ready to hit the next pitch. Of three seniors on the baseball team, Gonzalez and Senior Brett Deline were picked to go against the two teachers. "The key is to hit every ball as hard as you can," Gonzalez said. "Even though I lost, I was glad I was in the competition."

At the free throw line, assistant varsity basketball Coach Mr. Brian Fogarty tries to trump Senior Diante' Montgomery in the basketball event. "I felt I should have done better but I was happy to win," Mr. Fogarty said. Coach Fogarty, who played basketball at Lake Central High School and Purdue Calumet had to make the final five shots to beat Montgomery, went 17 for 20 at the free throw line.

Corn Hole

Mr. Luke Starkey

Ms. Grace Dewald

David Osorio

Katelyn Haddaway

Free Throw

Mr. Brian Fogarty

Coach Brittany Cruse

Diante' Montgomery

Riana Todd

Punt,Pass,Kick

Mr. Kyle Prow

Salvador Higareda

Wings Eating

Mrs. Sharon Row

John Irak IV

Wrestling

Coach John Cantu

Deven Lee

Seniors compete in dodgeball,

If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball flying 65 mph at your head. Or so the movie "Dodgeball" would have you believe.

Senior Joshua Jones is a believer. In the final battle, English teacher Mr. Dave Hossler and Jones were head to head. Jones was the last one standing.

Every year, seniors gather their friends and create a team to participate in the annual dodgeball tournament. Students are required to raise money to enter the final tournament.

Of the 24 teams that entered, 14 made it to the court. Every year since dodgeball began, the faculty team, In Wells We Trust, advanced to the finals. This year, the seniors turned the tables on their teachers, ending their winning streak.

"We've gotten older," Mr. Zac Wells said. "Each year, we have a rotation of a group of teachers that can play, and we keep on rollin'."

NO! I'm Dirty Dan, which advanced instead of the Wells team, included Seniors Joshua Barron, Damian DiGangi, Jose Gonzalez, Michael Martin Jr., Ryan Soto and Jones. For this team, their minds were set on the gold.

"Losing is not an option," Jones said.

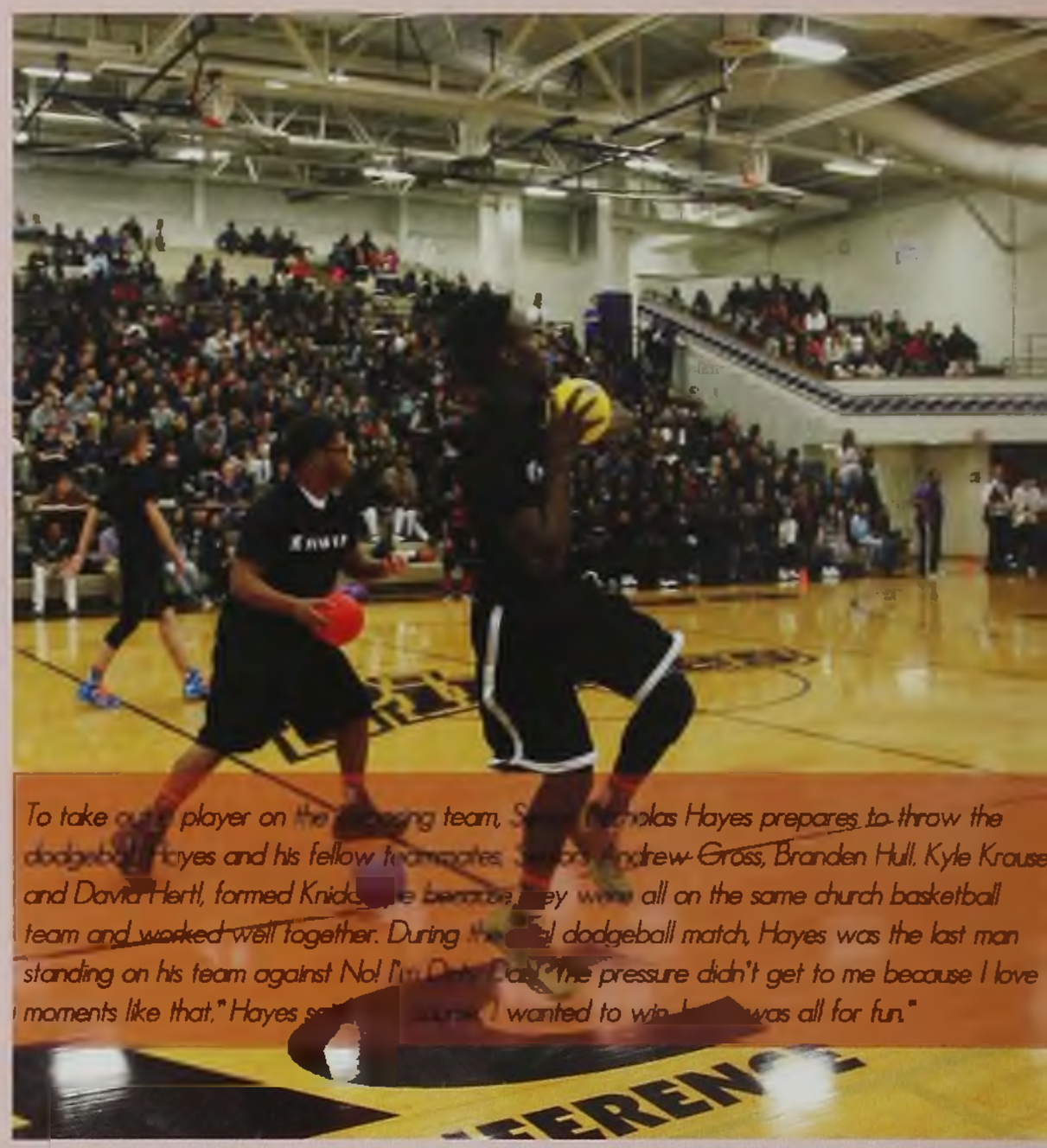
During half time, NO! I'm Dirty Dan had a new challenge: Knickstapes. Knickstapes included Seniors Andrew Gross, Kyle Krause, Nicholas Hayes, David Hertl Jr. and Branden Hull. This team also had the same strategy.

"We wanted to win and win big," Gross and Hayes said.

Being in the Championship game was different for them, but they felt grateful to make it.

"We didn't expect to be there," Gross said.

In the end, NO! I'm Dirty Dan came out on top once again and made a long-lasting memory for their senior year.



To take out a player on the opposing team, Senior Nicholas Hayes prepares to throw the dodgeball. Hayes and his fellow Knickstapes Seniors Andrew Gross, Branden Hull, Kyle Krause and David Hertl, formed Knickstapes because they were all on the same church basketball team and worked well together. During the final dodgeball match, Hayes was the last man standing on his team against NO! I'm Dirty Dan. "The pressure didn't get to me because I love moments like that," Hayes said. "Of course I wanted to win, but it was all for fun."

With his game face on, Senior Joshua Barron heaves the ball to the rival team. Barron said he decided to participate in the game because it was his senior year and he wanted have fun while playing with his friends. NO! I'm Dirty Dan consisted of friends Damian DiGangi, Joshua Jones, Jose Gonzales, Michael Martin Jr., Ryan Soto and Barron. Martin was the one to come up with the team's name based off a scene from "The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie." "We were just happy we beat the teacher team," Barron said. "It didn't matter if we lost at the final because it was fun."

Waiting to run toward the balls, Senior Brian Kelly looks for the signal to go. Kelly's dodgeball team, Origami, was comprised of fellow football players Darrin Funches Jr., Trey'Vonn Washington, Darnell Robinson, Salvador Higareda and Brian Isabell. "I wanted to play because I just wanted to do something different and have fun," Kelly said.

As he attempts to strike out the opposing player, Senior Chiamara Anokwute throws the ball with force. The dodgeball team, Nations United, consisted of Thomas Nueros, Nygel Jackson, Ronald Mayersky, Jacob Carey and Aaron Fuller. Carey and Nueros started the team and said they wanted Fuller and Jackson because of their ability to throw, Mayersky because of his build and Anokwute because of his athleticism. "I thought it was a good experience, and it brought us closer as friends," Anokwute said.

challenge faculty in basketball

Down by seven, Senior Kyle Krause tries to make his fr[illegible]. "We were more [illegible] any other senior [illegible] Krause said. Krause [illegible] believes that the team [illegible] enjoyed [illegible] practices [illegible] game day events.

As the school year came to a close, students awaited the annual Senior vs. Faculty Basketball Game. After months of preparation, Senior Sponsor Mr. Paul Unterfranz pulled together another event for students to relax before Spring Break.

"There was a lot of hard work on my and the seniors' behalf that went into the game," Mr. Unterfranz said. "Overall, I was happy with the turnout."

Requirements were set in place to ensure the best possible teams on the court.

"You have to attend seven meetings, be on track to graduate and in good standing with the faculty." Senior Bryant Isabell said. "For the most part, it was a pretty easy process."

With hope of coaching their teams to victory, Senior Riana Todd and English teacher Mr. Alan Mizimakoski worked their teams to ensure victory.

"Every year, the seniors get more and more arrogant as the game approaches," Mr. Mizimakoski said. "It's great to kind of shut them up and show them who the better team is."

To prepare, students and faculty pushed themselves physically to be in peak condition on game day.

"I participate in a basketball league at the Valparaiso YMCA every Monday," Physical Education teacher Mr. Kyle Prow said, "so I'm pretty in shape despite the fact that the seniors just assume you're an old man."

Although the seniors did not break the faculty's ten-year winning streak, students enjoyed the event nonetheless.

"Even though we didn't win, I just thought it was a great opportunity to get involved with the senior class," Senior Salvador Higareda said "It's kind of like your last hooray before you go off to college."

With his eyes locked on the basket, Senior Juan Martinez tries to make his free throws. After coming from a hard fall, Martinez makes both his baskets. "I fell hard, but I tried to come back and play harder," Martinez said. Martinez included hard work, dedication and the hunger to win as the team's strengths.

As they stand on the sideline, Coaches Seniors Riana Todd and Shaquita Dillard watch their players. "My advice for next year's coaches would be to get more practices in and build more team chemistry," Dillard said. Todd and Dillard motivated their players throughout the game and during practices.

Preparing for the game, Senior Sharell Ivey stretches on the sidelines. He also prepared for the games by attending all the practices and playing basketball in his free time. "It was fun, and we played a good game," Ivey said. Ivey said he believes the team was fast getting to the ball and made some good shots.

Remember

Guidance Counselor Mrs. Michelle Wilson joined two seniors in encouraging spiritual growth and good decision-making when the graduation season kicked off during the annual Baccalaureate service.

Seniors Brooke Grady and Keon Gibson both talked to their fellow seniors at the non-denominational service. The Choralteens, under the direction of Mrs. Melinda Reinhart, and trumpeters Mr. James Simon and Mr. Kenny Rudzinski provided musical motivation.

Mrs. Wilson was the request of the Class of 2014.

"Mr. Paul Unterfranz came and stated that I was one of the five staff speakers that the Senior Class wanted to speak," Mrs. Wilson said. "Of course, I was willing without a doubt."

To motivate seniors for the next phase of their lives, the featured speaker gave advice to the students on how to adjust.

"Every decision you make, every choice you make has a consequence," Mrs. Wilson said in her speech. "Whether good or bad, they may last you a lifetime. You have to set priorities. You need to consider short-term desires such as playing video games or watching a movie instead of doing the right thing like completing homework first or studying for an upcoming test."

Both Grady and Gibson had been chosen by the class as "Most Spiritual" in the annual Senior Choice Awards.

Senior Cassandra Govert, who has performed with the Choralteens during Baccalaureate for four years, was pleased with the choice of speakers.

"The speakers spoke about faith without pressing religion," Govert said. "I felt like everyone could feel comfortable and take in what they were saying."

Gibson said he hoped to inspire his peers through words of encouragement.

"I felt comfortable, like I belonged up there on stage," he said. "My main focus of the speech was to encourage my peers to get through whatever situation they are going through and to stay on the right path throughout life."

During her speech, Guidance Counselor Mrs. Michelle Wilson decides to take a moment to hassle Senior Raqib-Abdul Cox. Mrs. Wilson ended her speech with a challenge for the seniors. "I challenge you to look within yourself and find the inner strength, the higher power to always do what is right. Find what guides you to be the best possible you," Mrs. Wilson said.

Winner of the Senior Choice Award, Most Spiritual, Keon Gibson preaches to his fellow senior classmates. Gibson said he worked one day to prepare his sermon about staying on the right path and having faith in God. "In this case, I preached because of the award, but in my everyday life, it's my job to preach about the glory of the Lord," Gibson said.

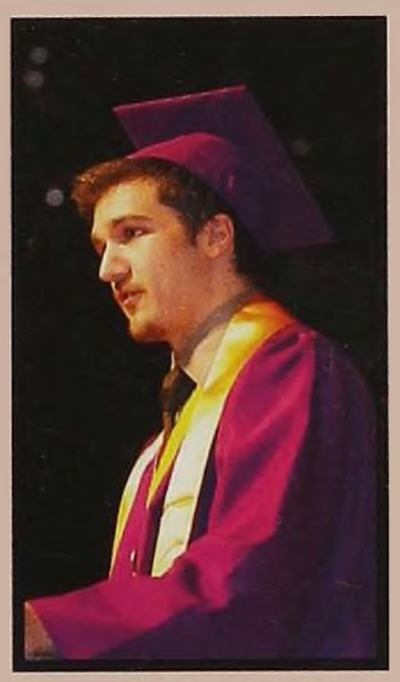
During Baccalaureate, trumpet players Mr. Kenny Rudzinski and Mr. James Simon play "A Quiet Place" by Ralph Carmichael.

Senior Cassandra Govert and Junior Yiqi Duan sing "Candle on the Water" from the Walt Disney Production "Pete's Dragon." Duan said she hoped to uplift the graduating class through the song. "'Candle on the Water' is an inspirational song to keep striving on through the negatives and stay positive during a negative situation," Duan said.

Aiming to influence her peers, Senior Brooke Grady preaches about being equipped for the seniors' new season. Grady said she was happy to speak at Baccalaureate because the service is an inspirational farewell that leads seniors to the next chapter in their lives. "When life gives you lemons, take them, squeeze out all the juice and sweeten it with the word of God," Grady said.

our faces

Valedictorian for the Class of 2014, Myranda Harris presents her speech to her fellow graduates. During her address she stressed that change is inevitable. "Remember nothing can stop you from what you're striving for except yourself," Harris said. "Never be afraid of something unexpected and embrace every opportunity that comes your way."



As the first valedictory speaker, Michael Anderson addresses his class. Anderson talked about the importance of overcoming life's challenges. "We are bound to struggle in life. These obstacles give us a choice," Anderson said. "We can give in, or we can overcome. All of us here in caps and gowns have overcome so much and are bound for greater things."

Playing the last song of her high school orchestra career, Senior Kayla Sadural ends with "Colors of the Wind" from Disney's "Pocahontas." Sadural played the viola for seven years and was the principal violist in the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra for three years. Ranked tenth in her class, Sadural earned a presidential scholarship from Valparaiso University.

With his left hand on the podium, Valedictorian Adam Tapper addresses his class. During his commencement speech, Tapper stressed the importance of achieving maximum potential. "Standing on this stage today is only a stop in our journey," he said. "We are only scratching the surface of our potential."

While at the podium, Valedictorian Kiera Shackelford smiles out at the crowd. As she addressed her class, Shackelford spoke about the importance of chasing passions. "Pursue your passions," Shackelford said. "Don't lose yourself because society may look down upon you. Be you!"

During Graduation June 11 in the Star Plaza Theatre, Seniors Alexis Alexander and Hasan Ali clap their hands as they enjoy the speeches. Alexander and Ali were among 480 seniors walking across the stage. During the ceremony, which was originally set for June 2 but postponed a week to make up snow days, Senior class treasurer and secretary Cassandra Govert presented the senior gift of cash to pay for additional seating in the cafeteria and a plaque for the hallway outside Reinhart Auditorium commemorating long-time choir director Mr. Jerauld Reinhart.

After finding his parents and his senior teacher Mr. Alex Tsikouris in the audience, Senior Kyle Hartlerode begins his speech by addressing his own fears. "Studies have shown that fear of public speaking, in most people, is greater than the fear of death." Admitting he was on "the verge of fainting," he encouraged seniors to overcome fear. "Don't let fear burn your dreams to ashes; let your dreams douse the flame of fear," Hartlerode said. "Once that's done, you're unstoppable."

As the selected guest speaker, Social Studies teacher Mr. Dan Moslander spoke about the importance of leading by example. He stressed the need of the graduates to find their gifts and share them with the world before it is too late. "Think about this question: Where is the wealthiest spot on planet Earth? It's the cemetery," Mr. Moslander said. "My question to you graduates is this: What are you going to do differently to ensure that the cemetery does not get your wealth?"

Whitney REESE

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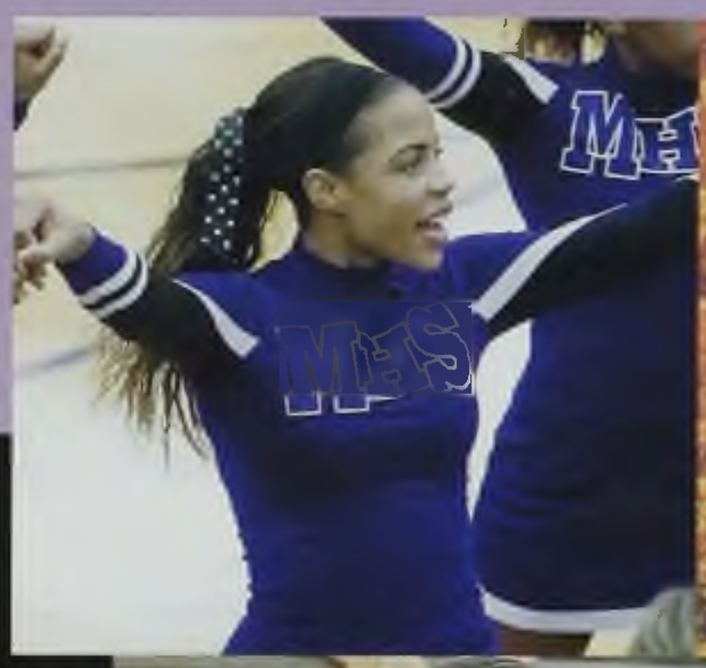

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Kirsten Nicole Wiley

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you were...

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you've become.

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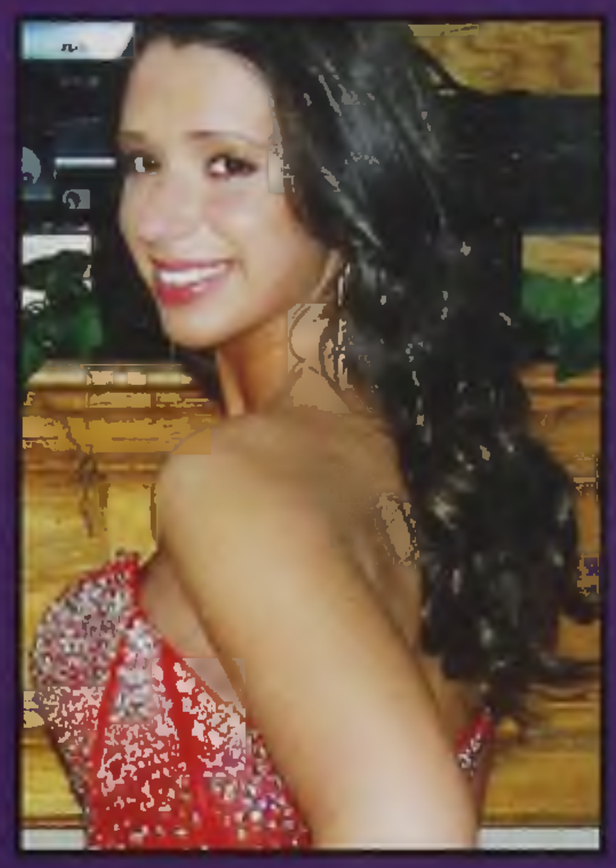

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merrillvilleeducationfoundation.org

Mrs. Eugene Cato, Myranda Harris, IHSAA Commissioner Bobby Cox

The Pirate Athletic Department

Congratulates

Myranda Harris

On May 24, 2014, Myranda Harris was 1 of 13 incredible Indiana High School Student athletes to receive the IHSAA Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship. She is Merrillville's first athlete to be presented with this prestigious award. Myranda is valedictorian of the Class of 2014 with a G.P.A. of 4.0. She participated in volleyball and basketball during her athletic career at Merrillville and earned seven athletic letters. She was the volleyball MVP both her junior and senior years and received the sportsmanship award in basketball her junior and senior years. She received an MHS four-year Scholar Athlete Award and a DAC Scholar Award. She was a member of the Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council. Myranda will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on a full scholarship. We congratulate Myranda for her outstanding accomplishments both academically and athletically during her high school days at MHS. Myranda's brightest days are ahead as she will pursue her dream to become a physician. We wish you the best, Myranda.

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Colophon

As members of Quill and Scroll, the Indiana High School Press Association and the National Scholastic Press Association, the Merrillville High School Yearbook staff presents this 89th volume of Merrillvue.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Teresa Procter, co-editors Keristen Lucero and Kennedy Nunn had a vision of a book that portrayed the reality of the school. The third hour class worked throughout the year to develop a book that revealed a true story of the students as they pursue academics, social life and athletic endeavors.

First and foremost, the staff would like to thank Mrs. Procter for her perseverance, determination and patience. Mrs. Procter diligently guided the yearbook staff. Without her helping hand, this yearbook. would not be possible.

The staff also thanks Mr. Phil Page, our sales representative from Jostens, for his help in producing and selling the book.

Thank you to HR Imaging Partners Inc., who took underclass and faculty portraits. The staff thanks John Bir from Giolas Photographers and his photo staff for taking senior portraits, sports and dance pictures.

The staff thanks the Guidance Office. secretaries in the Main Office and the Athletic Office for their assistance. The staff expresses gratitude to Mr. Brian Past and the PNN staff for their help in promoting the yearbook. The staff is grateful to Mr. Dave Teeter for making the staff T-shirts. The staff thanks the Technology Department.

To create this book, the staff used Jostens Online Design, Microsoft Word and Adobe Photoshop. The two fonts the co-editors selected were Maximo and Goudy Old Style.

Books were sold at school and online at ww.jostensyearbooks.com. Prices began at$55, increased to $60 and finally set at $65.

Yearbook Staff
Adviser: Mrs. Teresa Procter
Front row: Keristen Lucero, Emily Gronli, Sarah Bradash, Courtney Peterson, Marissa Collins, Taylor Woods, Khaila Sanchez, Raina Robinson; Second Row: Kathryn Sarsfield, KeYuana Membres, Xeria Griffin, Ashley Mendez, Ayana Gray, Viridiana Carrillo, Mariana Cantu; Third row: Kennedy Nunn, Timisha Ivie, Tommye Nelson, Angelica Navarro, Chelsea Williams, Anna Davis; Back row: Jonathan Streck, Jordan Baldwin, Keon Wright, Todd Douglas, Ashton Anekwe.

Section Editors

Senior
Kathryn Sarsfield

Junior
Tommye Nelson

Junior
Ayana Gray

Senior
Courtney Peterson

Junior
Todd Douglas

Sophomore
Ashley Mendez

Sophomore
Ashton Anekwe

Senior
Taylor Woods

Note from the editors

From going to summer camp in Bloomington to having long, angry, late night phone calls and sending long e-mails, we spent a few hours meeting in the yearbook room to brainstorm ideas and ended up at Panera Bread for a lunch date to find a theme. Unfortunately out of all of that, we still had not come up with a solid theme.

We attended a Jostens Camp to hopefully help us decide on a theme as well as choose our cover. Our sales representative from Jostens came to the table and asked us the one question that would trigger a light bulb moment.

"What's unique and different about Merrillville?" Mr. Phil Page asked.

We sat in complete silence until ideas came pouring out of Keristen's mouth like a waterfall.

People on the outside always think that we are a bad school just because we are a minority majority school. There is so much more to Merrillville than meets the eye," Keristen said.

That is when our theme "Faces of Reality" fell into place. We decided to create a yearbook that showcases all Merrillville High School has to offer.

From the outside looking in, many students walked past our staff members in the hallway and thought we were out of class simply for the fun of it. In reality our staff spent countless hours on daily missions to interview students, staff and administration. Due to tight deadlines, our staff occasionally interrupted a few classes along the way; the staff sincerely apologizes.

Completing the yearbook would not have been possible without our adviser Mrs. Teresa Procter. We thank you for your determination, patience and advice on helping us finish the book. We cannot forget to acknowledge our wonderful staff who stuck with us through the ups and downs of being editors as juniors "Our staff moved mountains for us. They did anything we asked of them. We couldn't have asked for better people to work with," Kennedy said.

Co-editors Juniors Kennedy Nunn and Keristen Lucero

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